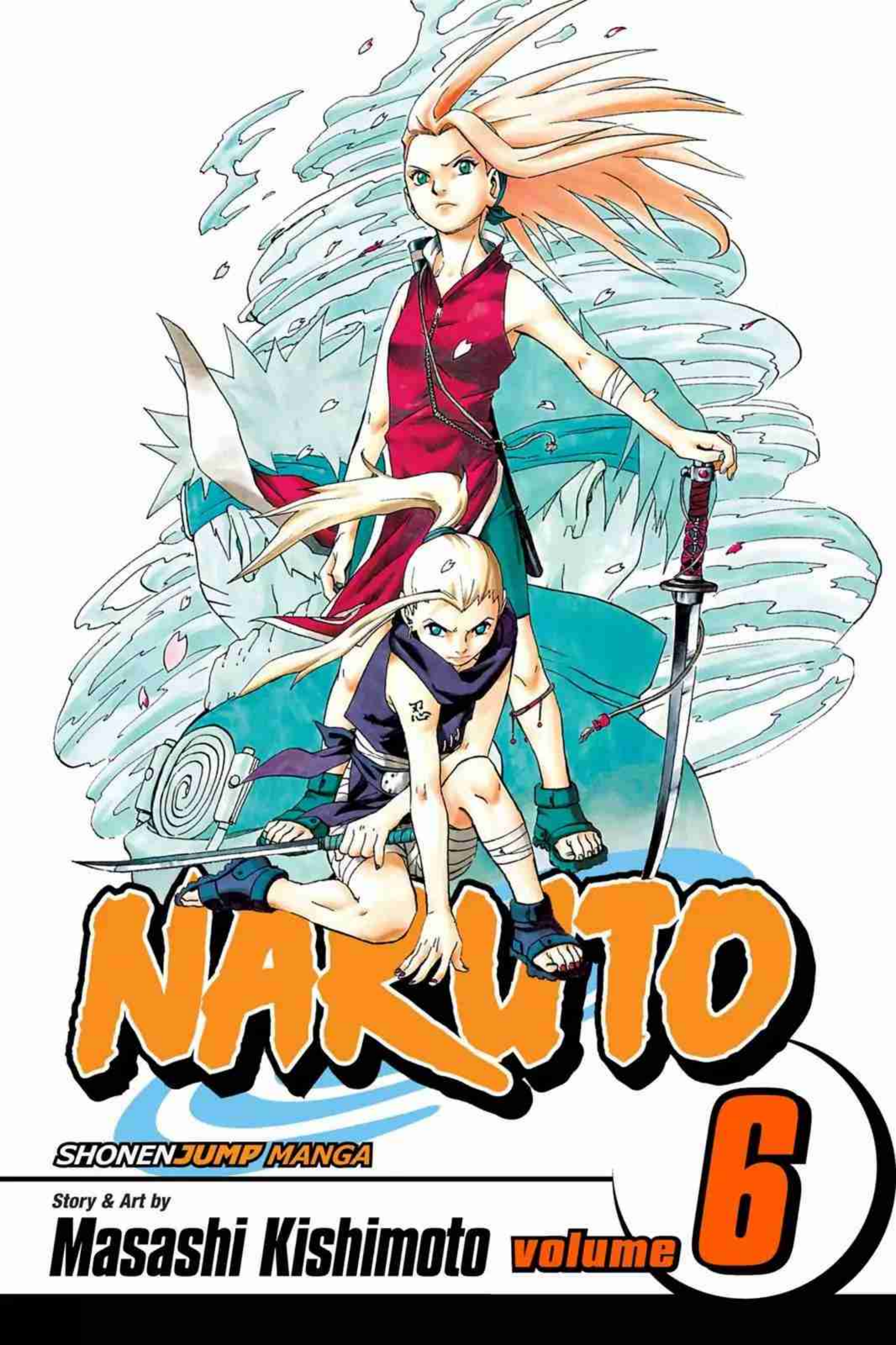
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 6

岸本斉史

Lately, all over the world, there has been an upswing in terrorist acts—attacks by armed groups and the taking of hostages—by the worst kind of criminals. In an effort to resolve these situations with as little bloodshed and fanfare as possible, nations all over the globe are increasingly turning toward special operations forces, armed with the latest technologies and finely honed skills, giving them superlative intelligence-gathering capabilities. Such operatives are truly the modern analog to the type of warriors who, in the past, were known as ninja!

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2000*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** ("Mechanism"). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.

NARUTO VOL. 6
The SHONEN JUMP Graphic Novel Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in **SHONEN JUMP** #23-27.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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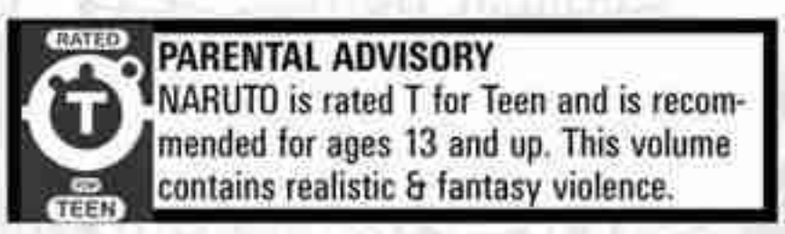


PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic & fantasy violence.

SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL

VOL. 6

THE FOREST OF DEATH

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

SAKURA サクラ

Smart and studious, Sakura is the brightest of Naruto's classmates, but she's constantly distracted by her crush on Sasuke. Her goal: to win Sasuke's heart!

NARUTO ナルト

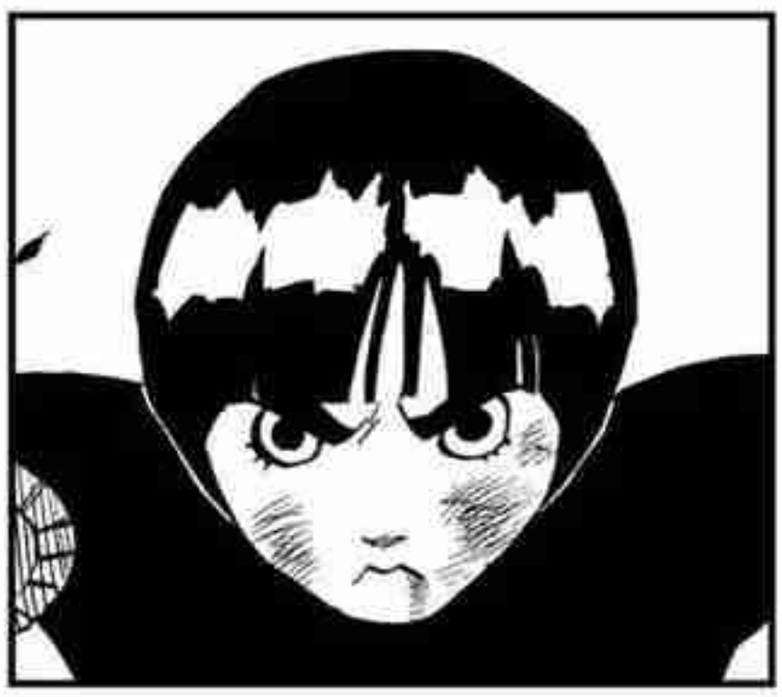
When Naruto was born, a destructive fox spirit was imprisoned inside his body. Spurned by the older villagers, he's grown into an attention-seeking troublemaker. His goal: to become the village's next *Hokage*.

SASUKE サスケ

The top student in Naruto's class, Sasuke comes from the prestigious Uchiha clan. His goal: to get revenge on a mysterious person who wronged him in the past.

MITARASHI ANKO
みたらしアンコ

The Second Chief Examination Officer, responsible for the portion of the exam that takes place in the Forest of Death! She's determined to cut down the number of teams by half before the next segment of the test is complete, and she seems to relish the thought of watching the students go down in flames.



ROCK LEE ロック・リー

Rock Lee, a devoted disciple of his teacher, Master Gai, is one of the most talented young shinobi around, and he's completely infatuated with Sakura.

THE SOUND NINJA (OTONIN) 音忍

Are these mysterious ninja roaming the forest in search of their second scroll, or something else entirely?

THE ASUMA CELL
Choji チョウジ
Ino いの
Shikamaru シカマル

Sakura's rival Ino and her team hope to steal their second scroll from the weakest team in the bunch—Naruto's!

THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The *Hokage*, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of *ninjutsu* with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke.

Astonishingly, Naruto and his team passed the written section of the Chûnin (Journeyman Ninja) Selection Exam, but they face new dangers in the exam's second portion, which is conducted in the Forest of Death! The object of the exercise is to reach the tower in the center of the forest with two scrolls in hand, and all three team members alive, before five days elapse. Each of the 26 teams is given only one scroll, and must steal the second scroll from another team using any means necessary!

NARUTO

VOL. 6
THE FOREST OF DEATH

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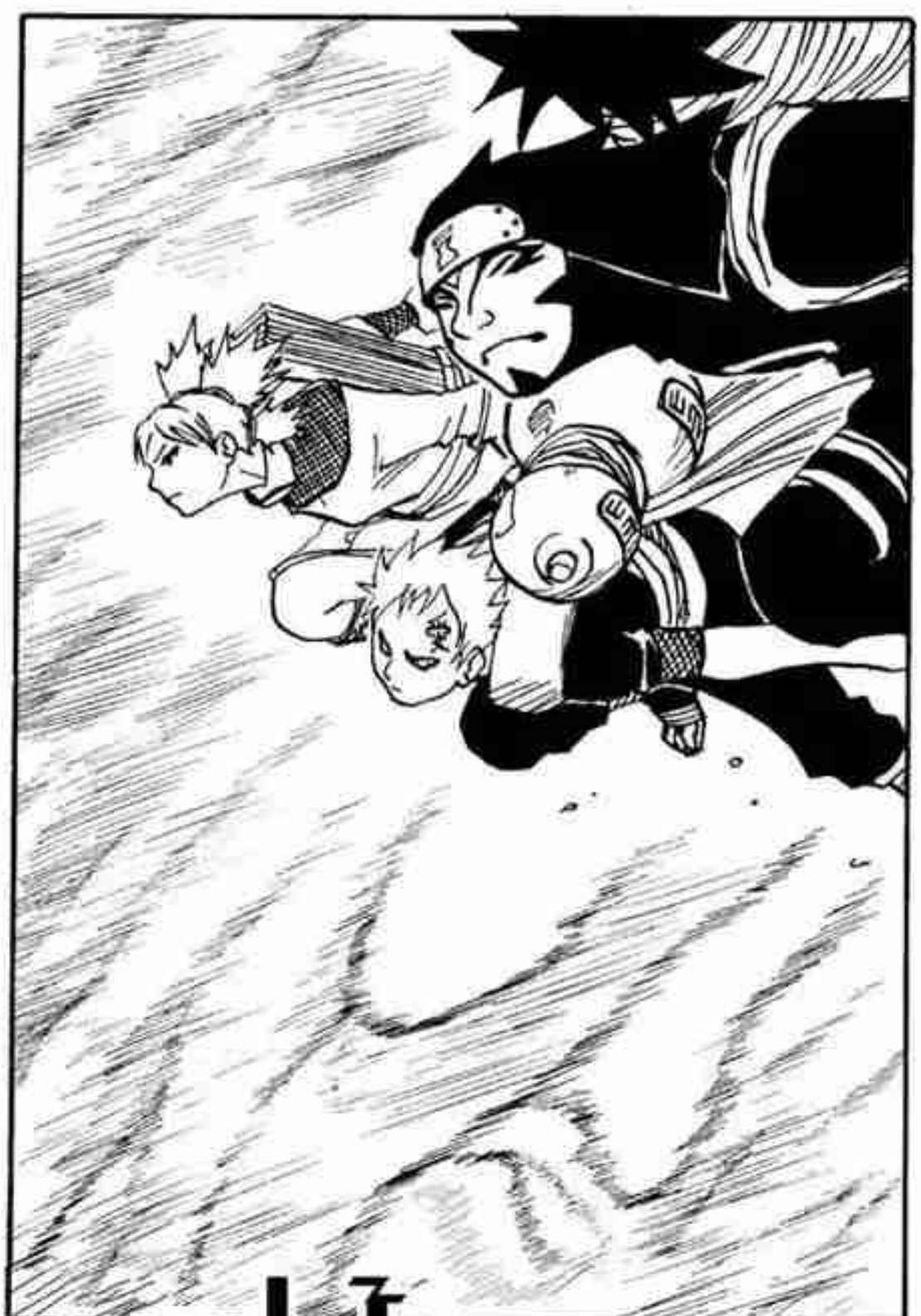
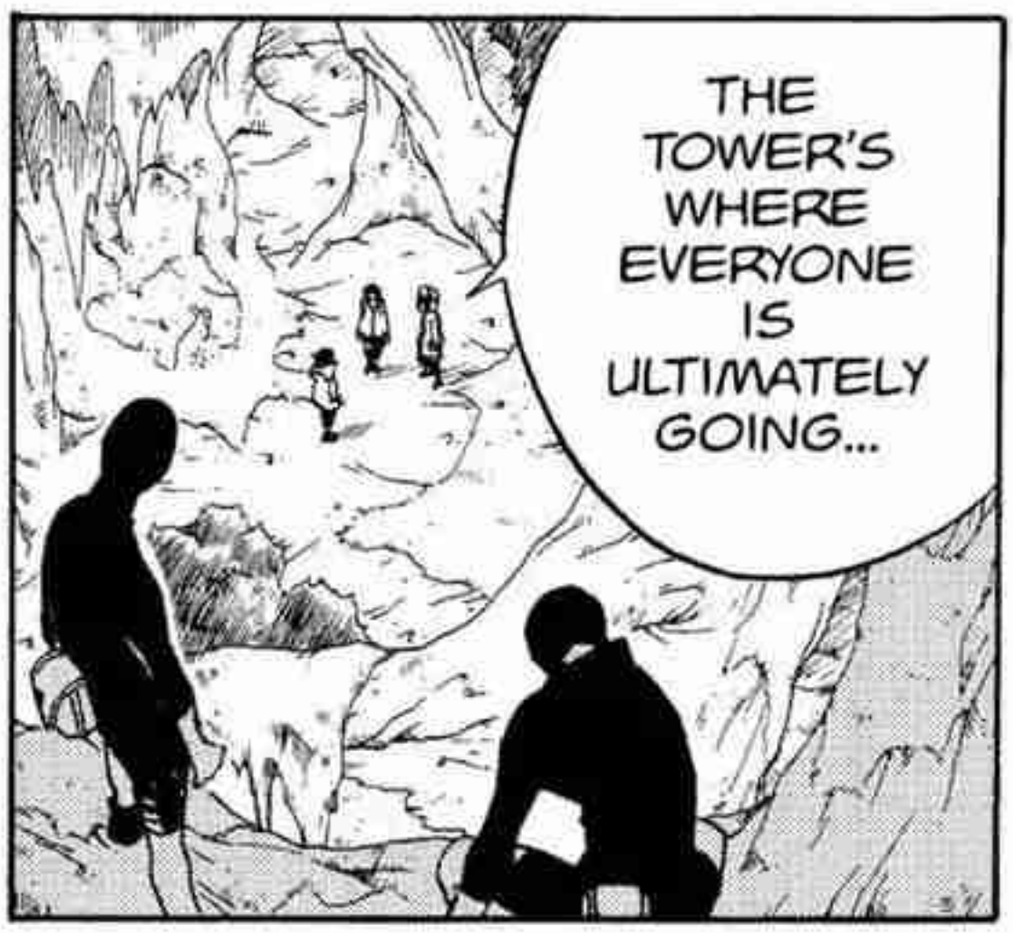
Number 46:



The Password Is...

HOP

POP


THE TOWER'S WHERE EVERYONE IS ULTIMATELY GOING...

SHF

TAK
SHF

SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
!!

WHERE ARE THEY?
FOUND THEM ALREADY, HUH?

...SO WE MIGHT AS WELL SET TRAPS AS CLOSE TO THERE AS POSSIBLE.

AGH!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE AS WHITE AS A SHEET.

SHIVER
!

STUPID KIDS... THEY MIGHT AS WELL BE SHOUTING, "CAPTURE US!"
FROM THE SOUND OF THINGS, THEY KNOW WE'RE SOMEWHERE NEARBY....
...BUT THEY HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHERE YET.

WHAT IS THAT THING?!
SHLUK
SQUIRM

!!

AAAAAGH!
SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT

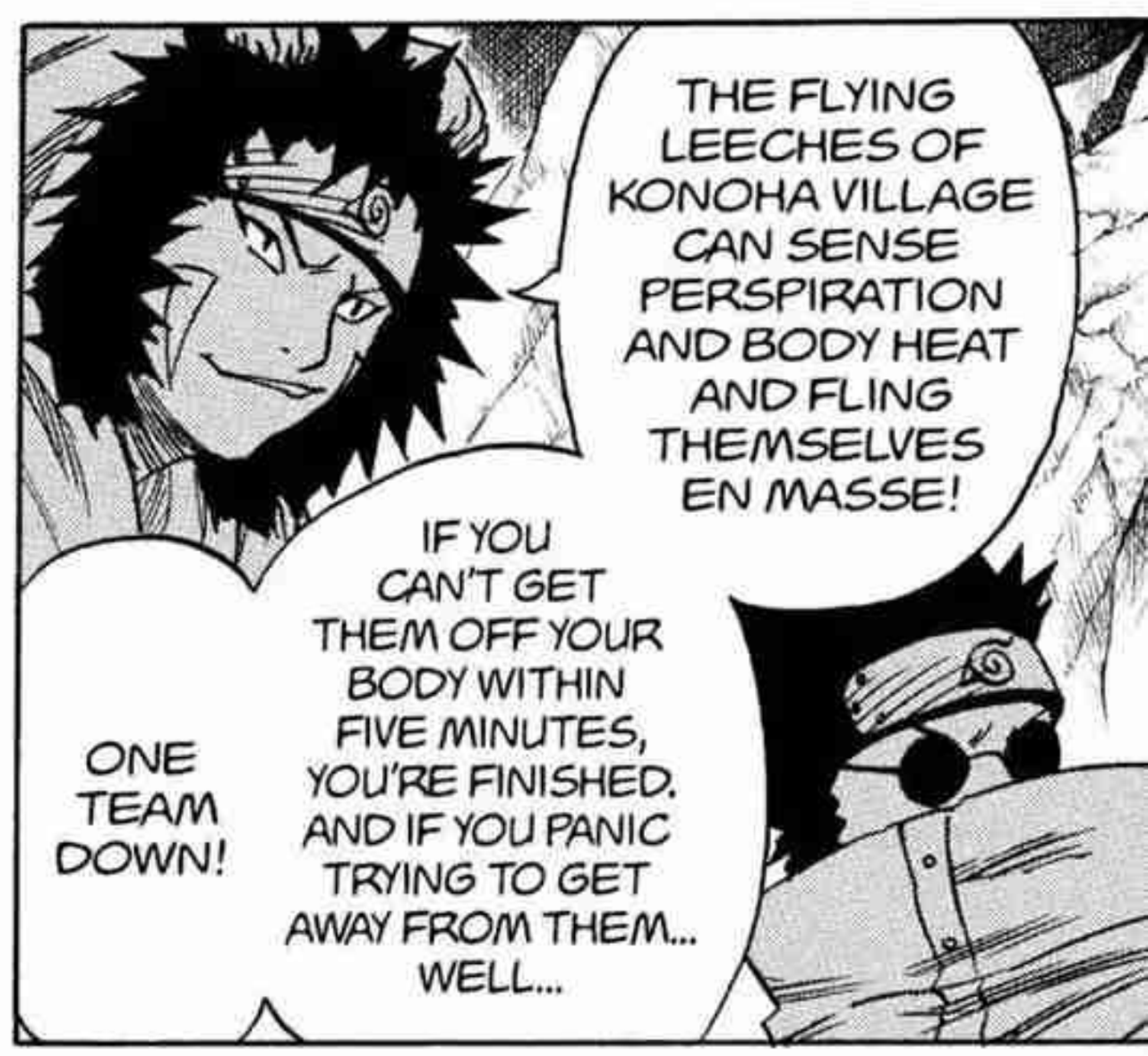
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
PLOP
!!

!
SHUF
GROSS...

TWANG
HUNH?!

ICK...
EEYOOO...
SLUP

SLIP
HELP!!!


THE FLYING LEECHES OF KONOHA VILLAGE CAN SENSE PERSPIRATION AND BODY HEAT AND FLING THEMSELVES EN MASSE!
IF YOU CAN'T GET THEM OFF YOUR BODY WITHIN FIVE MINUTES, YOU'RE FINISHED. AND IF YOU PANIC TRYING TO GET AWAY FROM THEM... WELL...
ONE TEAM DOWN!

...THAT WAS FAST!
WELL...

AAAAGH!

THIS PLACE IS CREEPING ME OUT!

I'M TELLING YOU, SAKURA, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

DID YOU GUYS HEAR SOMEONE... SCREAM?

...!!

IF IT WERE SASUKE, ON THE OTHER HAND... HEH HEH HEH...

INNER SAKURA

"WHAP"

OW!!

NOT IN FRONT OF ME, BOZO! I'M A LADY!

USE THE BUSHES!!!

...

!!

GRUNT GRUNT

...UHHH... I GOTTA TAKE A LEAK...

I TOLD YOU, YOU'RE IN THE PRESENCE OF A LADY! DON'T BE VUL--

SIZZLE

!

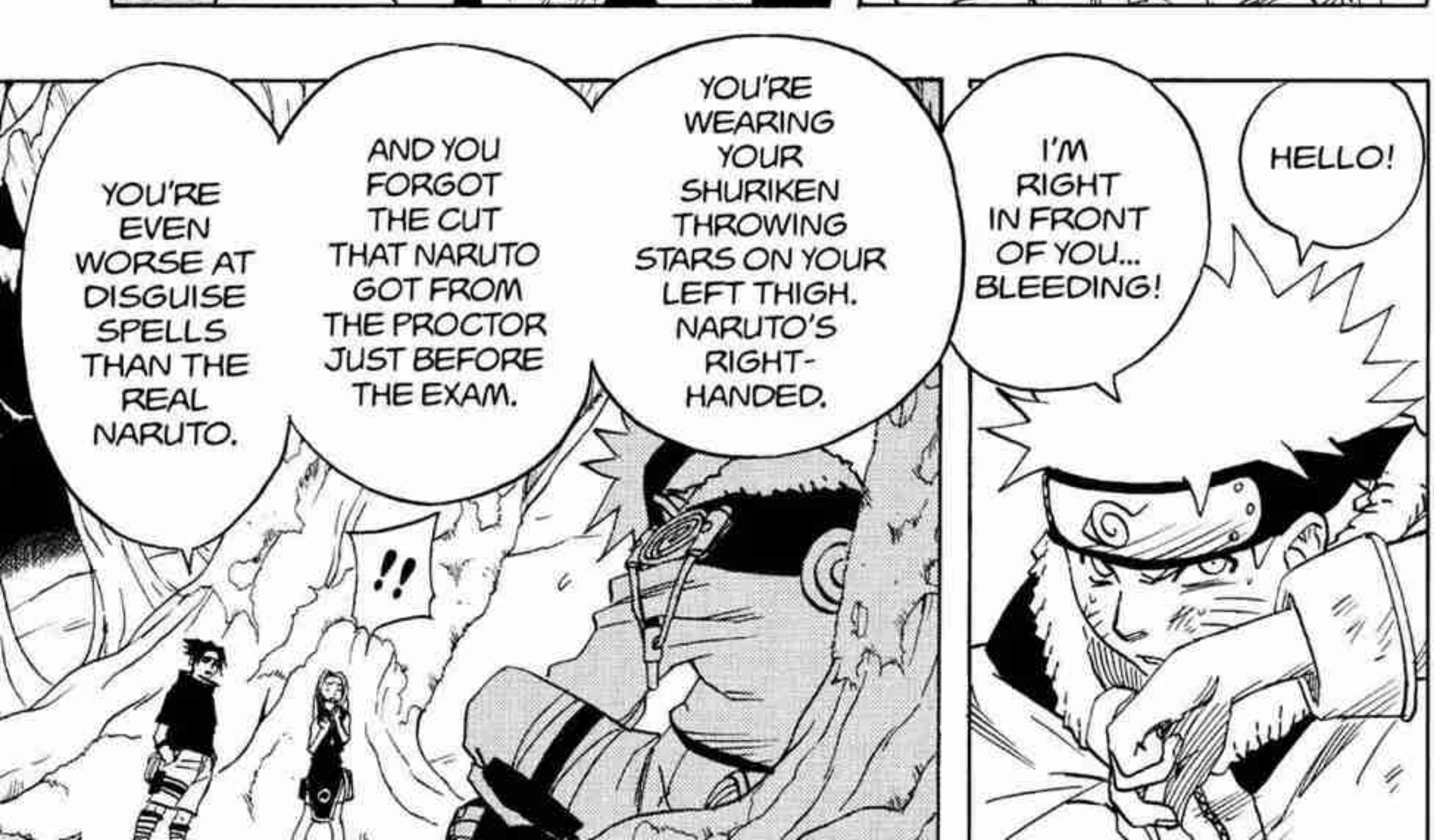
OH, MAN! WHAT A RELIEF! FEELIN' GOOD NOW!

S-SASUKE... I APPRECIATE THE CHIVALRY, BUT THAT WAS WAY OVER THE TOP!

SLAM

WHAT THE--?!

!!



TAK
!!

POP
WHICH ONE OF YOU TWO HAS THE SCROLL?!
SINCE YOU'VE FORCED ME TO COME CLEAN, WHY DON'T YOU DO THE SAME?

UNFOR-TUNATELY, YOU'VE FORCED ME TO BE DIRECT!
SHM

FWO
FIRE STYLE! ART OF THE PHOENIX FLOWER... THE TOUCH-ME-NOT!
SH

TAK
TAK
TAK
VNN
FWP
FWP
FW
TIG
ER

WHOA
HOP
HOP
HOP
THAT IDIOT...
YEAH!!
THUK
HOP
!
SASUKE!!
SQUIRM
FWP
THOK
THOK
THOK
HAH!
WHIP
WHIP
YOU LEFT AN OPENING-- LUCKY ME!!

BOOO
OOO
OHH
!!
SIZZLE
A LETTER BOMB!
BETTER AND BETTER. ONE FALSE MOVE, AND I'LL KILL YOU.
NOW HAND OVER THE SCROLL!
OW!
TH
UD
...!!
SASUKE!!

KA
CHAK
HEH...
!!
!!
FWOOM!!
CHAKRA ENERGY WILL HOLD THIS TO THE SOLE OF MY SHOE...
YOUR NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASY!
LATE AS USUAL, NARUTO!!
HMMM

GAAH!!
SHOO
TAK
KA
CHK
!!
!!
TH
AM

PLIT PLIT

SASUKE...
HE GAVE ME NO CHOICE! NOW MOVE! WE DON'T KNOW WHERE HIS FRIENDS ARE!
YOU GOT THAT?
KEEP STANDING THERE, AND YOU'LL END UP DEAD!!!

SIGH
LEAD
LEAD
GONE...

GAA
OHHH!
MY... ARM!
THIS IS AWFUL!
I THOUGHT COMING ALONE WOULD HELP CONCEAL MY PRESENCE... INSTEAD, IT'S BEEN MY RUIN!
!
SHLUP

...WE CAN'T TRUST EACH OTHER BLINDLY!

IT COULD END UP THE WAY THIS DID!

REMEMBER THIS. IF WE GET SEPARATED AGAIN...

THAT WAY, WE'LL KNOW. NO MATTER WHO THEY LOOK LIKE OR HOW THEY SOUND, IF ONE OF US GETS THAT WRONG...

...THEY'RE AN ENEMY!

THE SAFEST THING IS FOR US TO HAVE A SECRET PASSWORD.

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?

WHEN I ASK FOR IT, HERE'S WHAT YOU RESPOND...

IT'S A POEM CALLED "NINKI" -- "NINJA OPPORTUNITY."

LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY. I'LL SAY IT ONLY ONCE!

"OUR ONLY CONCERN IS TO WATCH AND WAIT...

"WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY TIDE. QUIET *SHINOBI* DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE.

YOU ARE SUCH A DUNCE. I'VE ALREADY GOT IT DOWN!

AND YOU EXPECT ME TO REMEMBER THAT... **HOW?!**

BINGO!

...

"...UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."

I'LL TAKE THE SCROLL.

WE NEED A BETTER PASSWORD! HOW ABOUT "SWORDFISH"?

SHA

VERY GOOD. TIME TO PULL BACK AND REGROUP...

FWOOOM

WHAT THE...?

OW!
!
FLUSH

YAAAAAH!!
BOOOOSH

!!
A NEW ENEMY?!

I'LL GO IN ALONE!
STICK AROUND, YOU TWO. IT COULD BE FUN!

BABOOOM

!
STAY BACK! DON'T COME NEAR!
WHAT'S THE PASSWORD?
THE "NINKI."
FWD
SASUKE!
SAKURA...
WHIRL
YOW... ARE YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?
!!
!!
GOOD!
"WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY TIDE. QUIET SHINOBI DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE. OUR ONLY CONCERN IS TO WATCH AND WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."
OH! RIGHT!
WHE
"WE THRIVE IN THE CHAOS OF THE ENEMY TIDE. QUIET SHINOBI DON'T NEED DENS TO HIDE. OUR ONLY CONCERN IS TO WATCH AND WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY LOWERS THE GATE."
RIGHT. "NINKI."
NOT SO FAST, NARUTO! THE PASSWORD?

!!

FW

IP

WHAT?!

!!

HEYY!

TOK

WAIT JUST A SECOND HERE!

AND THIS TIME, HE'S GOOD ENOUGH TO DEFLECT MY ATTACK!

TAK

NARUTO GOT THE PASSWORD RIGHT!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SASUKE?

WHUD

ONG
WELL DONE!
HUH?
HEH
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE THAT KIND OF PASSWORD...
I KNEW YOU WERE UNDERGROUND, EAVESDROPPING ON EVERYTHING WE SAID.
WHAT GAVE ME AWAY?
DOF
I SEE...
THIS IS GOING TO BE MORE FUN THAN I THOUGHT!
WATCH AND WAIT, EH?
GOTCHA, IMPOSTER!
...THE KIND THE REAL NARUTO WOULD NEVER MANAGE TO MEMORIZE.

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS – PART ONE

◦ASSISTANT NO. 1: TAKAHASHI KAZUHIRO

PROFILE

◦ A NATIVE OF KYUSHU WITH A TASTE FOR GOOD SAKE AND RED BEAN BUNS, HE COMES FROM THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF BEPPU, ALSO KNOWN AS HELL (BECAUSE OF THE SULFUROUS FUMES THAT BILLOW FROM ITS FAMOUS HOT SPRINGS).

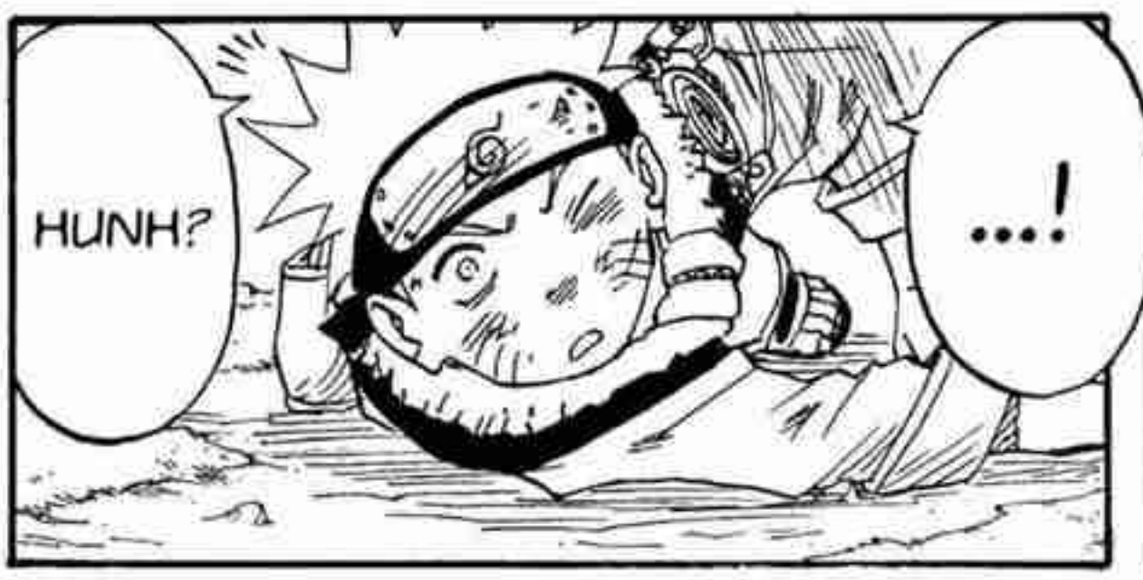
◦ LOVES TO EAT AND ALWAYS HAS HIS NOSE IN THE OFFICE REFRIGERATOR.

◦ LOTS OF TREASURES ARE SLEEPING IN HIS CLOSET AT HOME.

◦ HAS A TASTE FOR LEATHER AND WILD MOTORBIKE RIDES.

◦ HE'S A SUB-ZERO SUPER-COOL BAD BOY WHO LIKES TO PLAY DUMB. HE WORKS AS MY BETA -- THE ARTIST WHO SPOTS THE SOLID BLACKS IN HAIR AND CLOTHING, LAYS DOWN THE HALF-TONES, AND COMPLETES THE BACKGROUND ART -- AND LIVES LIKE A CHIEF.

Number 47: Predator!!

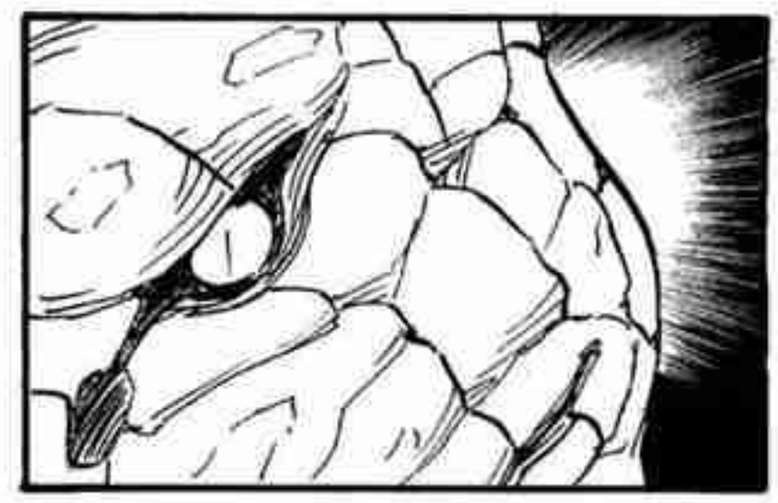


Number 47: Predator!!
HUGE!!!
...HUGE!!!

WH-WHAT IS UP WITH THIS FOREST...?!
SSSLIDE

...A SNAKE THAT BIG!
I-I'VE NEVER SEEN...

TAK



!!
GRRR

SSSSS
!

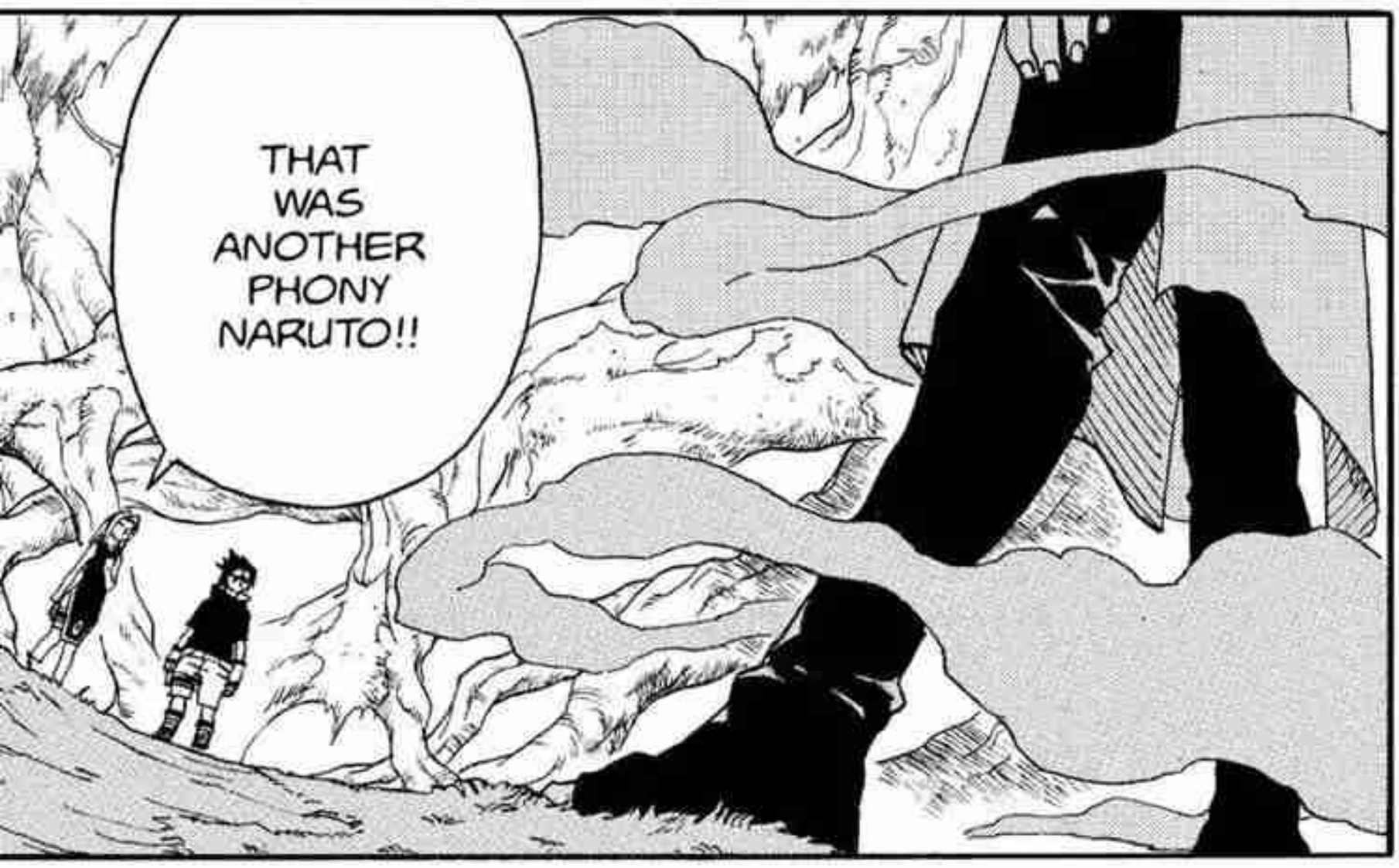
!!
...TH-THE TAIL...!!

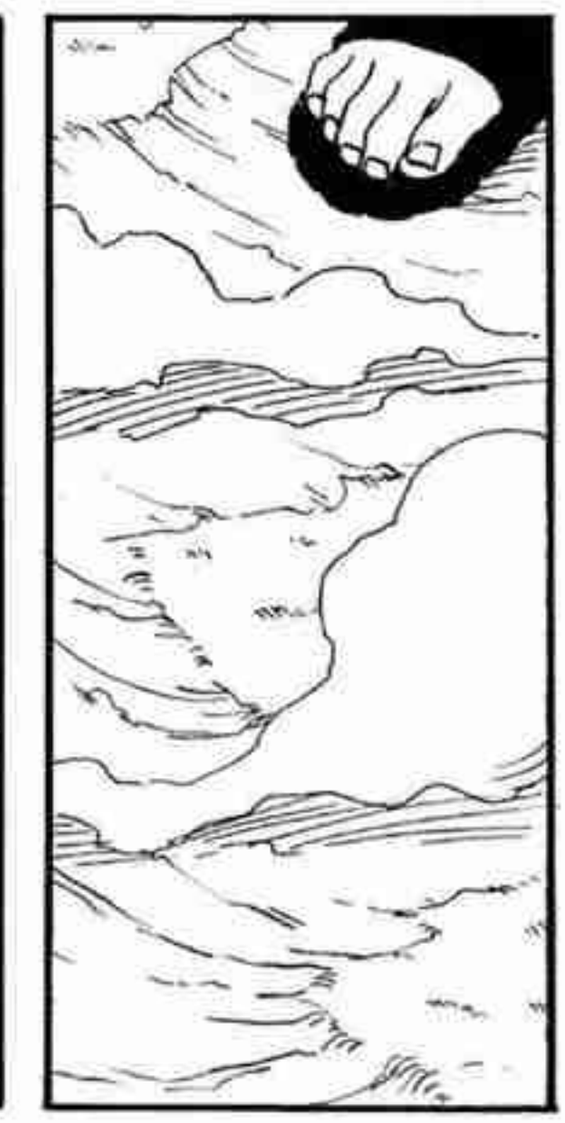
FW UP
BEHIND ME?!
ACK!

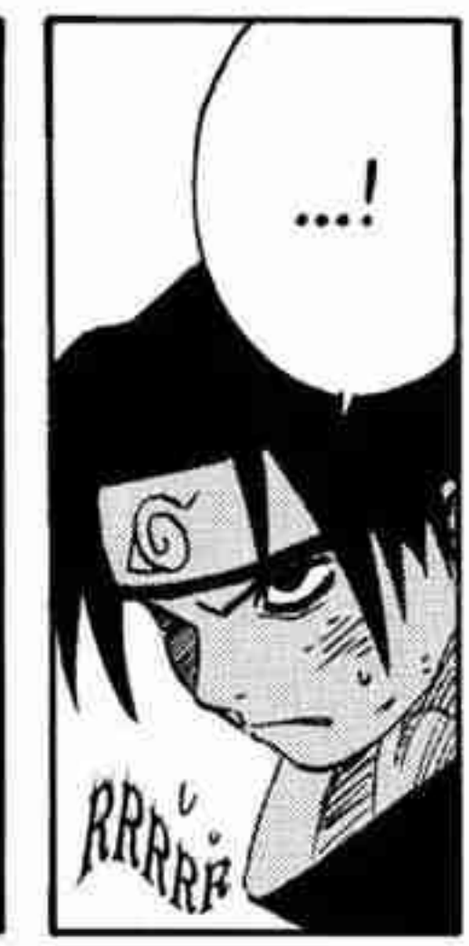
CUP
AAAAAGH!!

HEY!!
SLURP
IT ATE ME!!

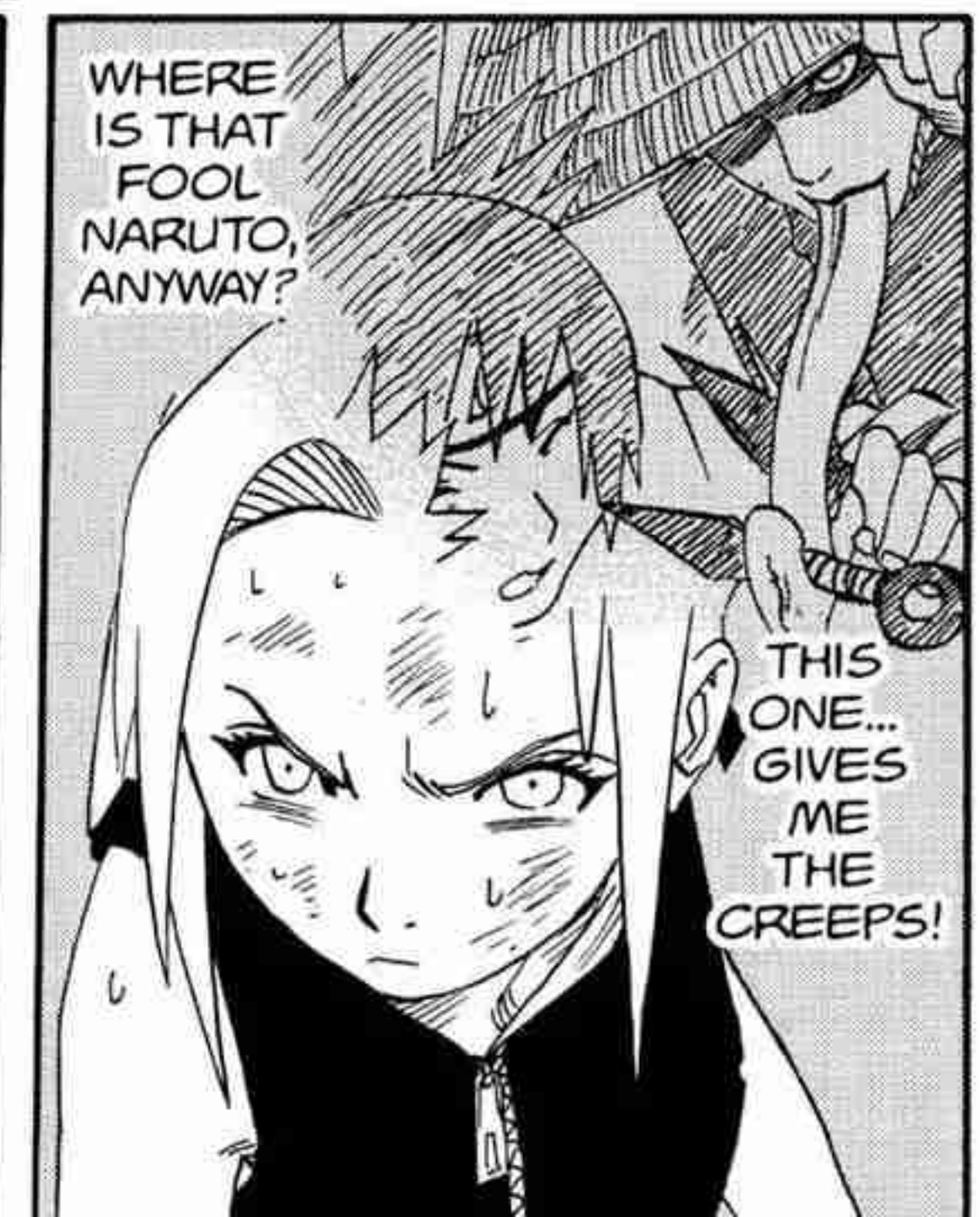
SLURP
GET ME OUTTA HERE...!







THIS SCROLL READS *CHI*, MEANING "EARTH."



GLUG

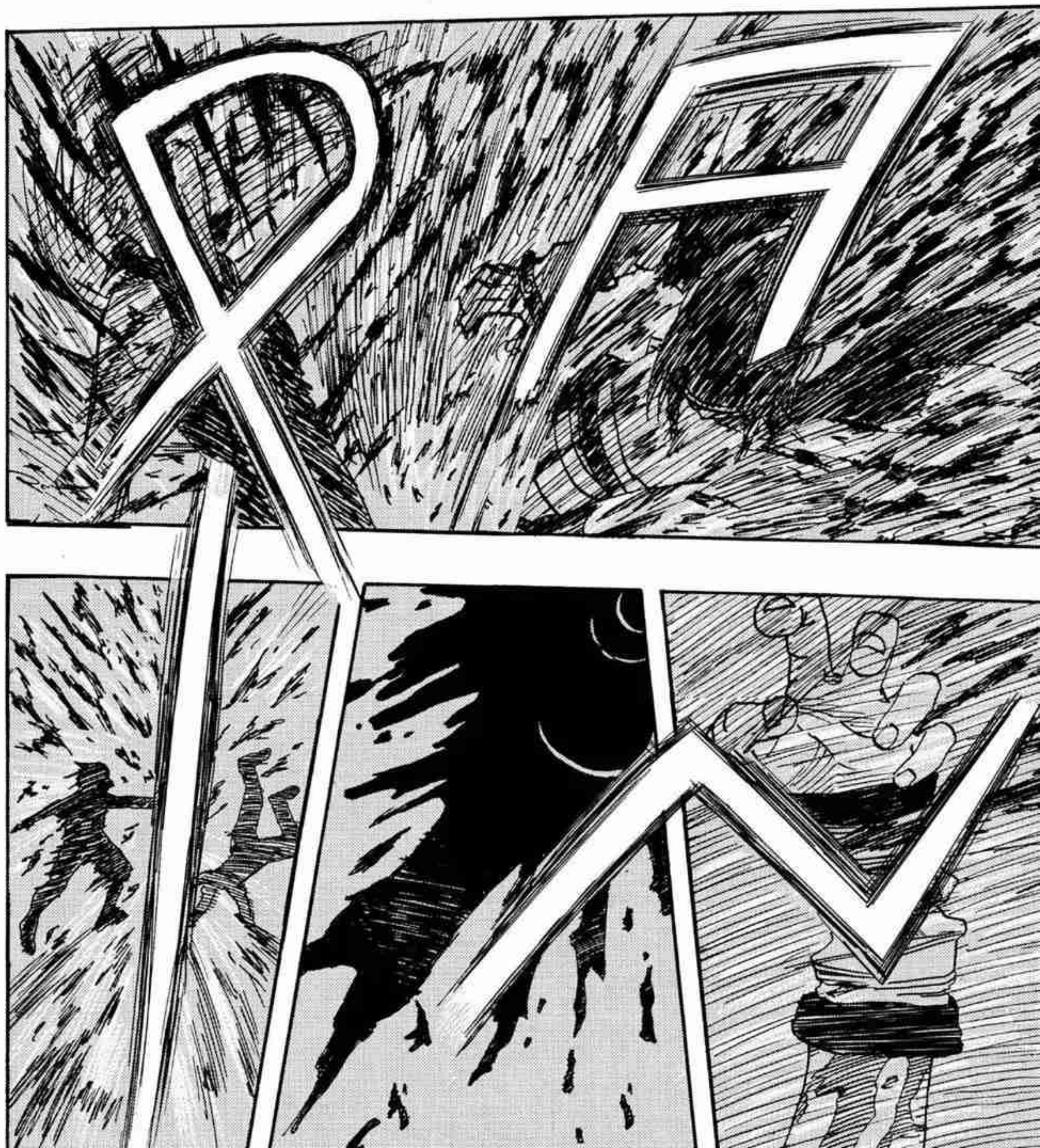
!!

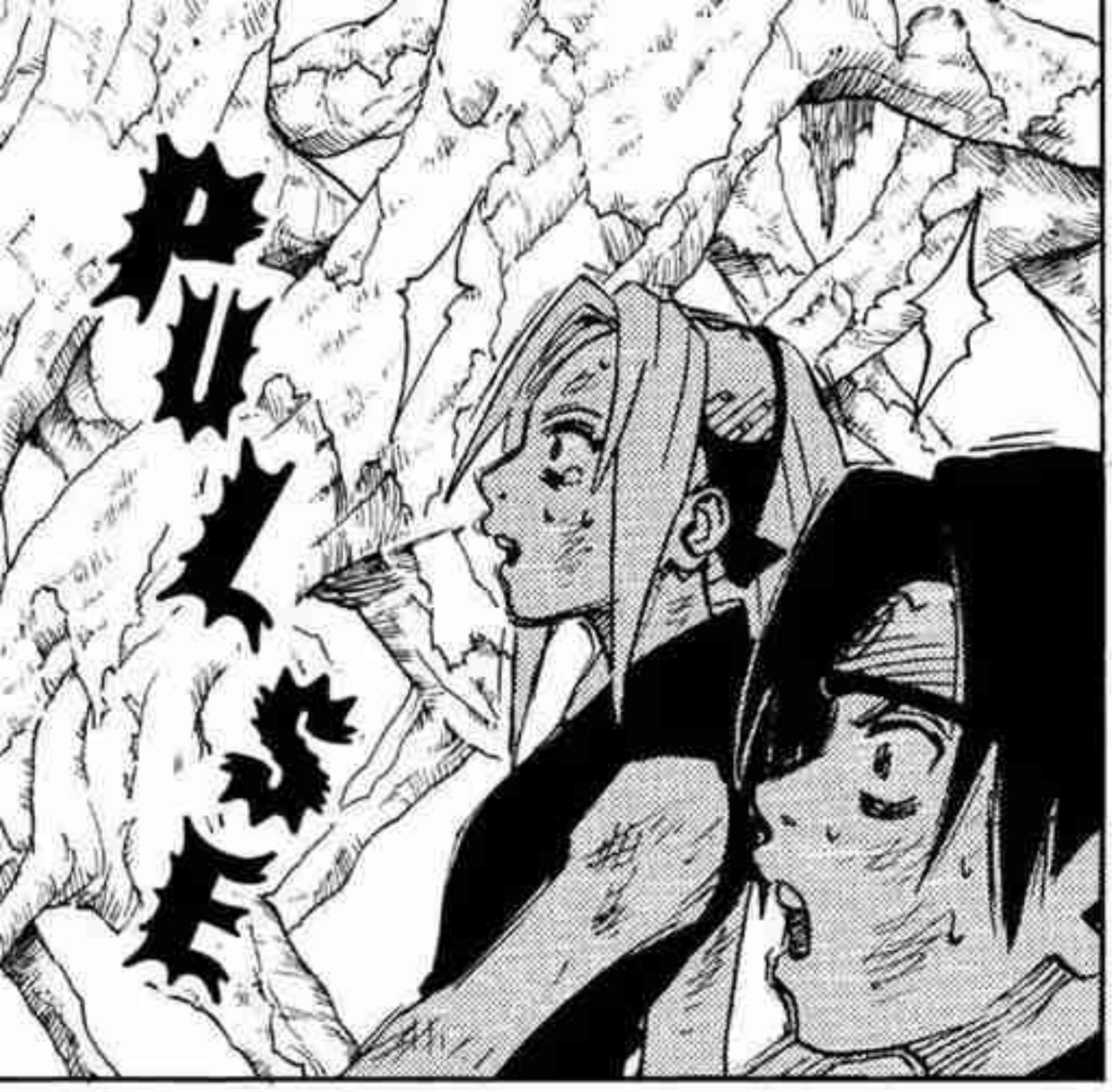
LICK
GULP
GULP
...JUST WHO WILL BE STEALING SCROLLS FROM WHOM?
NOW... SHALL WE SEE...

SLURP

WE'LL FIGHT TO THE DEATH!

!!

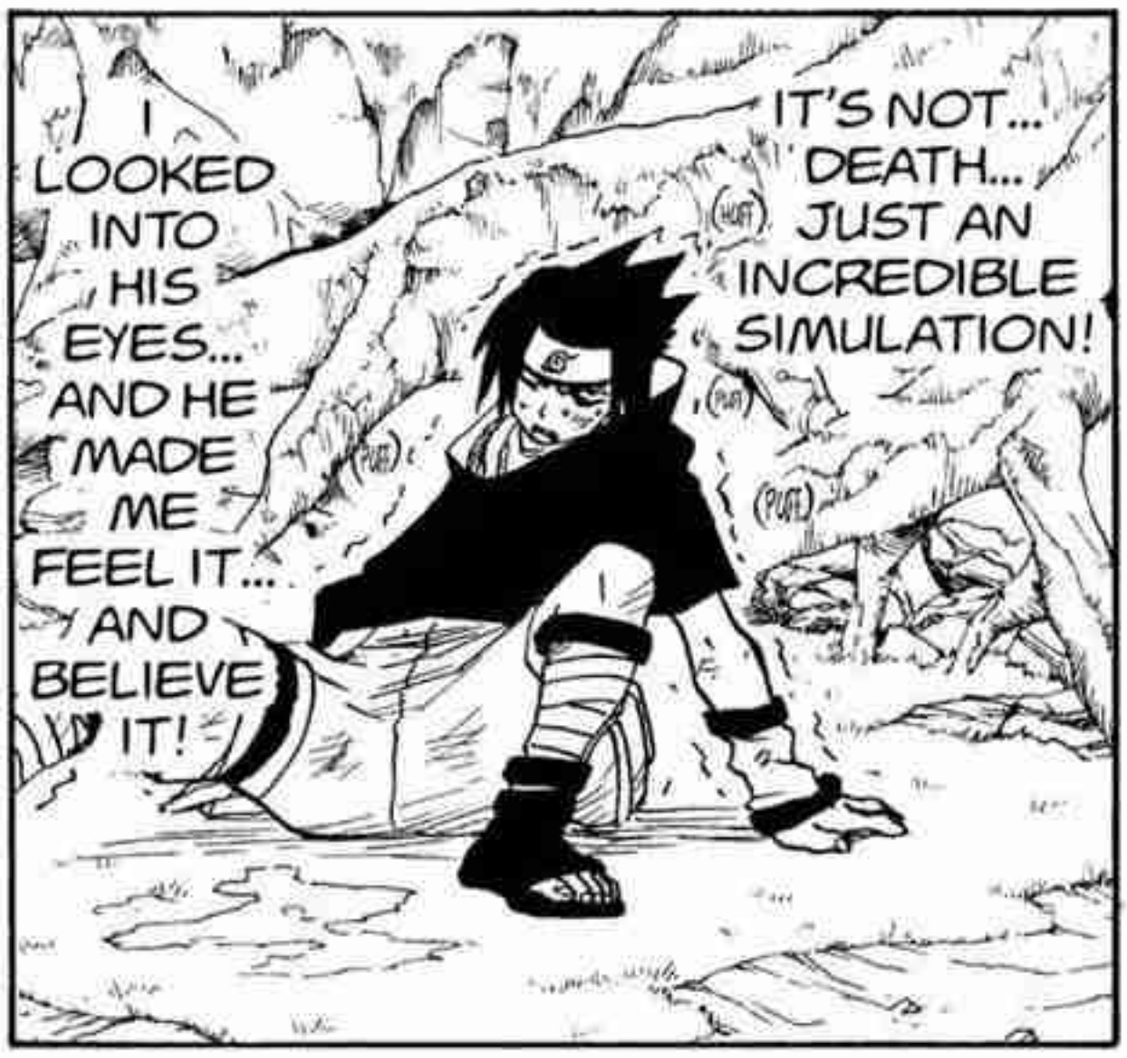

DEF
ENG


PU
K

BLORTCH !!
UHHN...

(HUFF)
(PUFF)
(PUFF)
...HE'S CAST-ING... / AN ILLUSION!
THO
K

WH-WHO THE HECK IS HE... ?!!

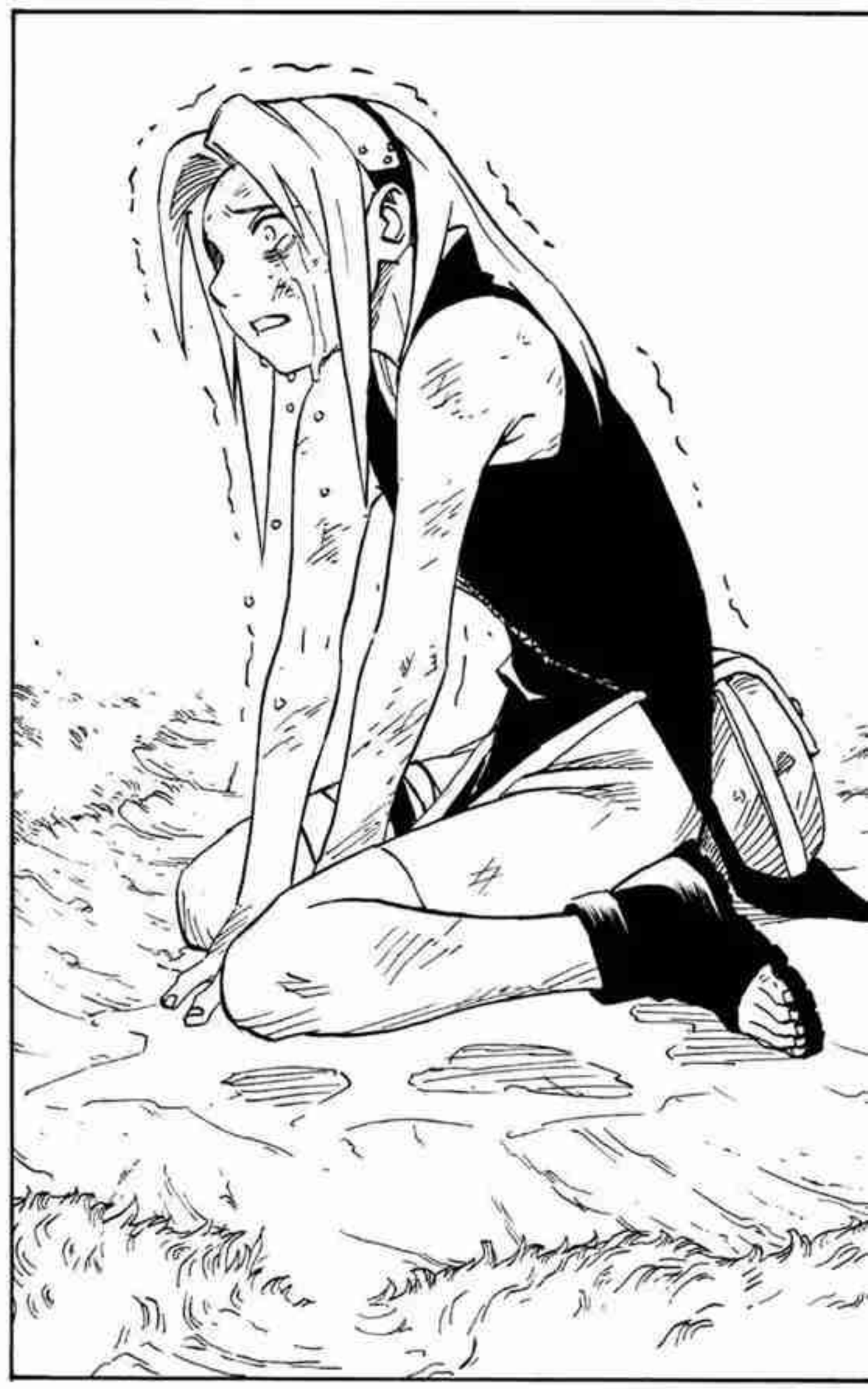

I LOOKED INTO HIS EYES... AND HE MADE ME FEEL IT... AND BELIEVE IT!
IT'S NOT... DEATH... JUST AN INCREDIBLE SIMULATION!
(HUFF)
(PUFF)
(PUFF)

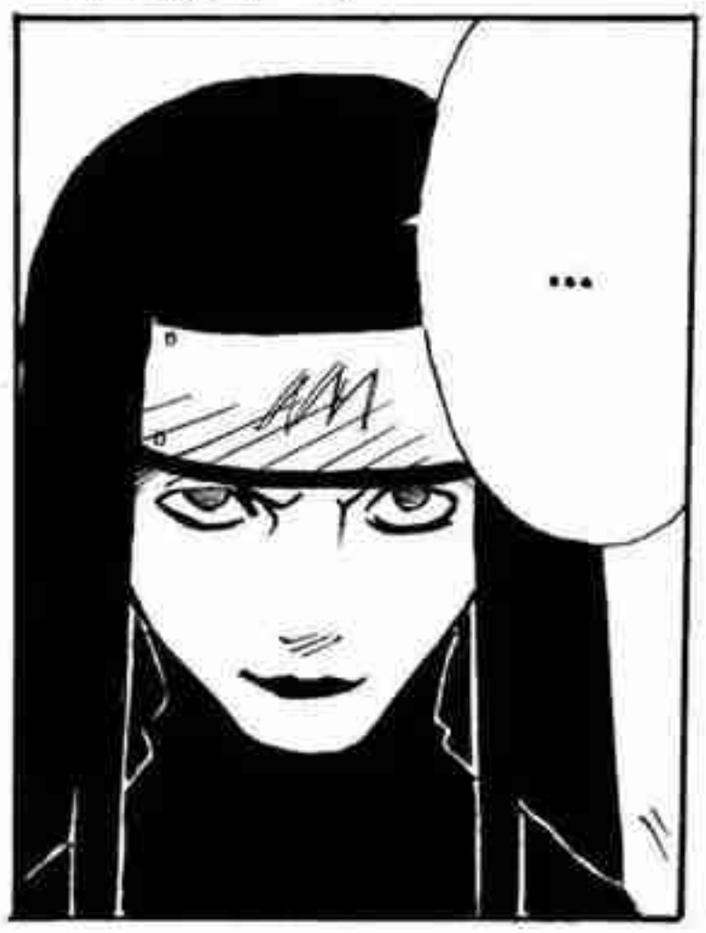
!

...!!

SAKURA...

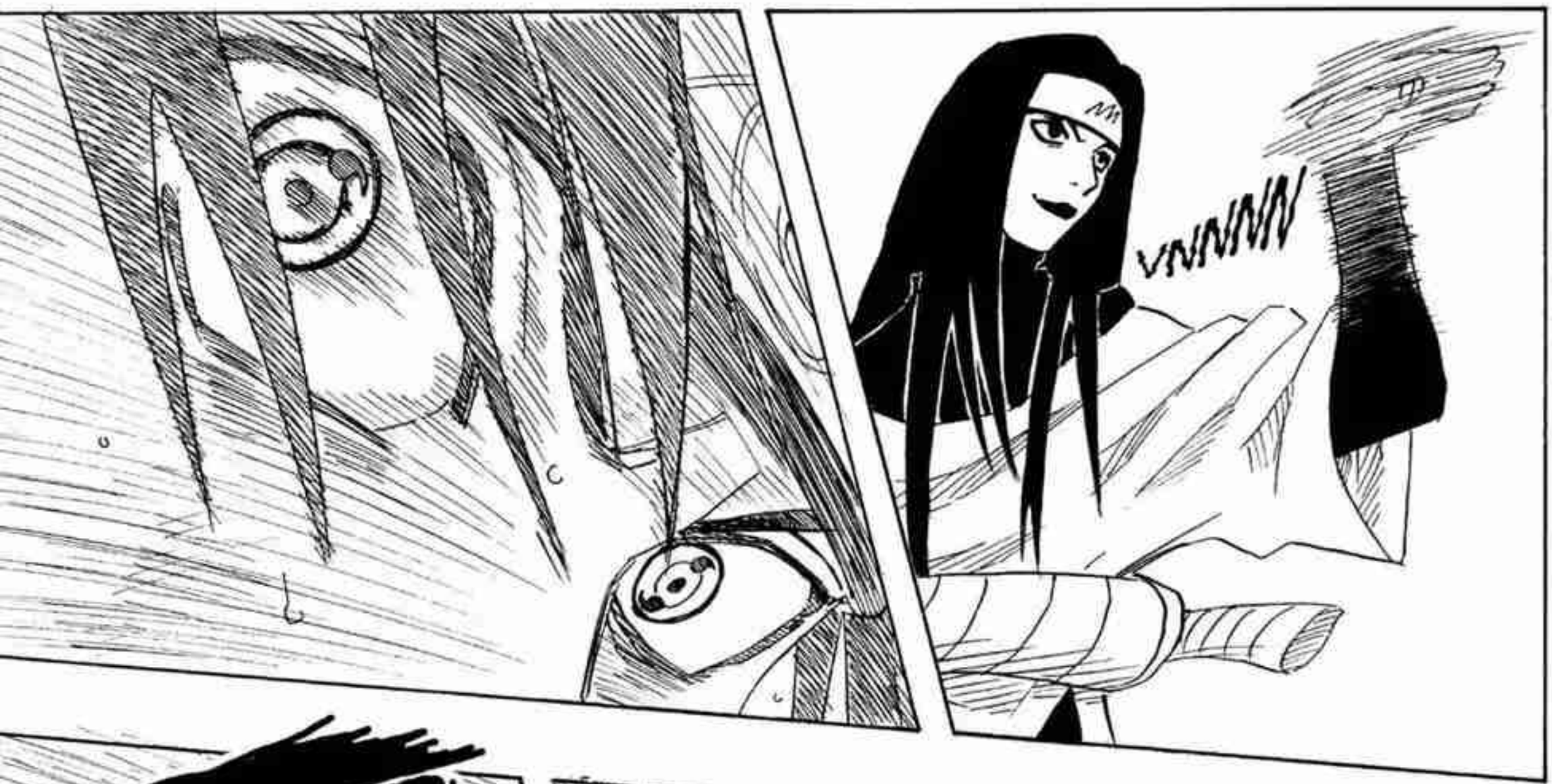
CRUD! IF WE DON'T RETREAT NOW...
...WE'RE FINISHED!
THE ONLY OTHER OPTION IS DEATH!!
HEH... I IMAGINE YOU'RE PARALYZED BY NOW...

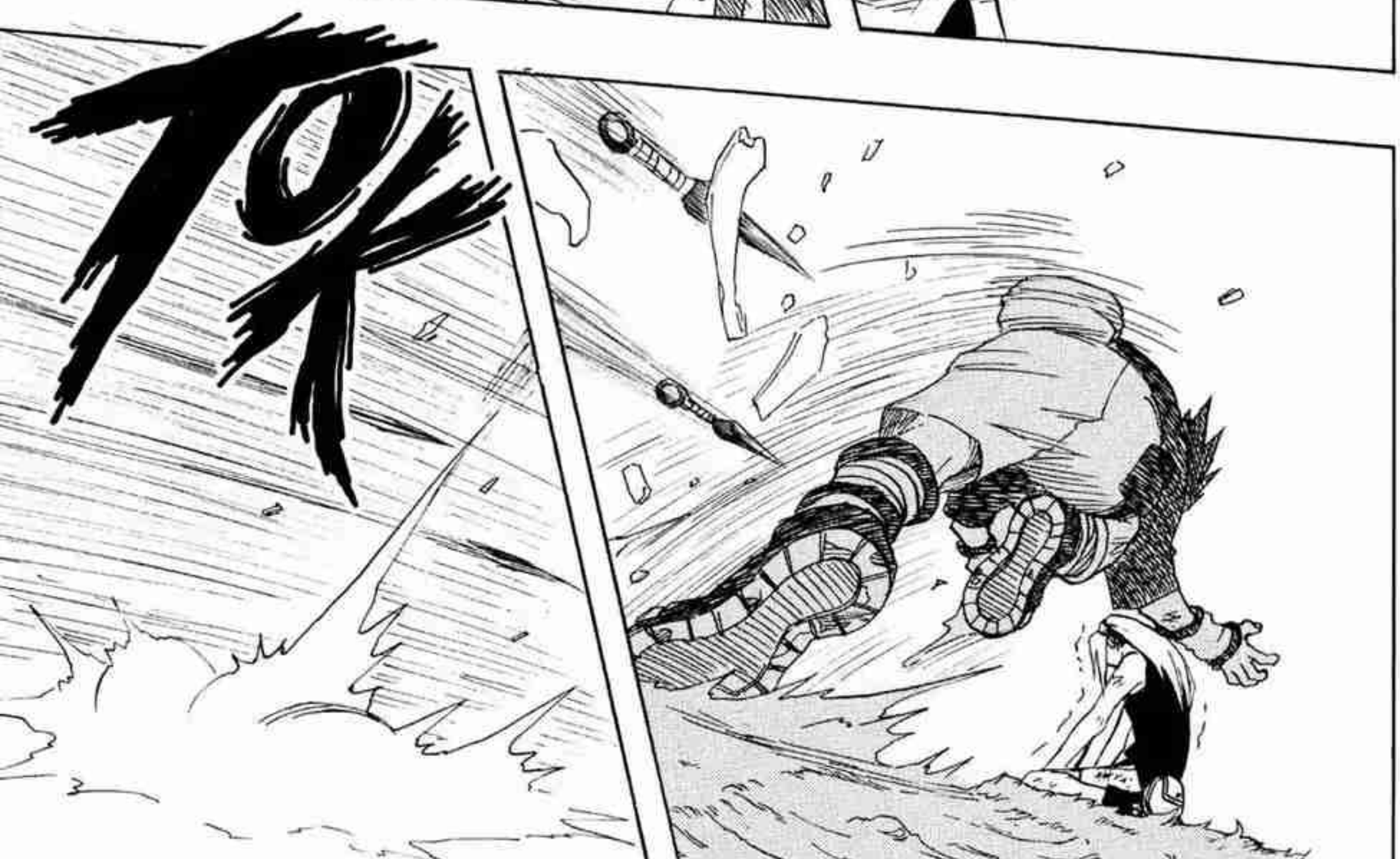



...

...JUST ENOUGH!!

NOT QUITE... I CAN MOVE...


VNNNNN

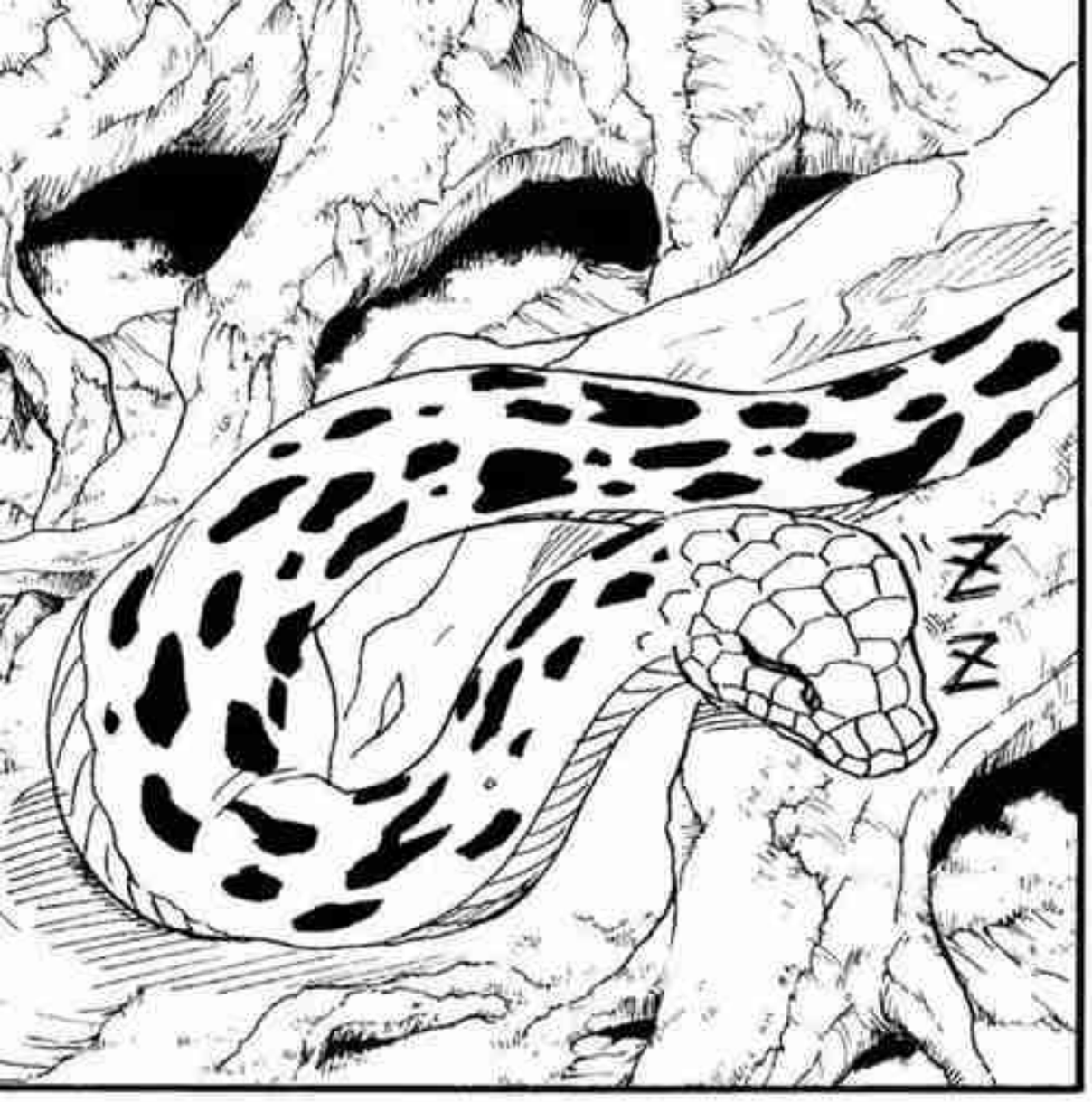

FOOF

THOK THO

STAB

HEH... JUST AS I THOUGHT, THERE IS FAR MORE TO THIS ONE THAN TO THE COMMON PREY!
AMAZING! THE BOY STABBED HIMSELF SO THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON THE PAIN AND BLOCK OUT FEAR AND ILLUSION!

UUNH...
SHL UGK
!!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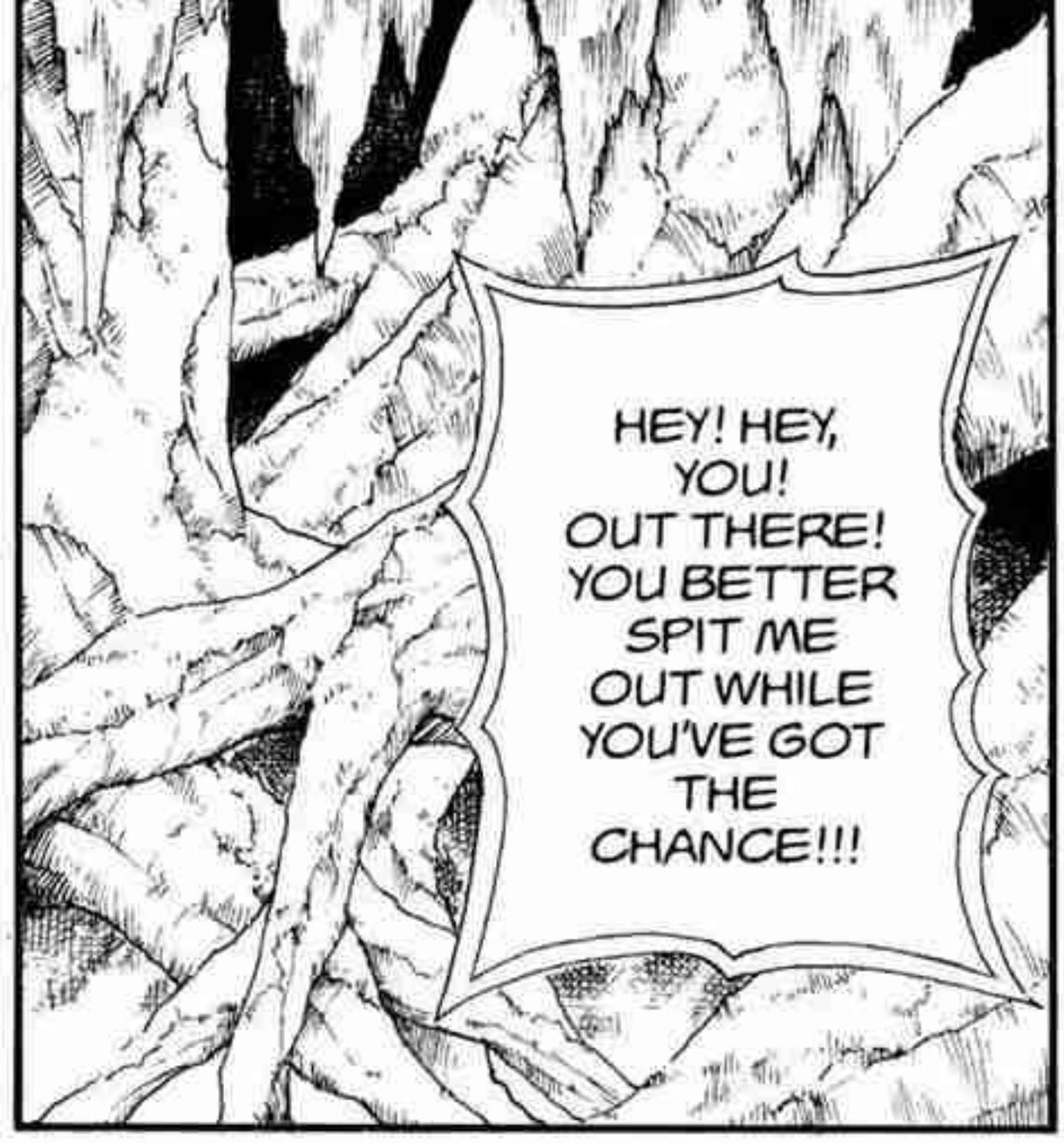

HEY! HEY, YOU! OUT THERE! YOU BETTER SPIT ME OUT WHILE YOU'VE GOT THE CHANCE!!!

MORE, PLEASE. KEEP IT COMING!!
ULP!

BUT HOW DO I MAKE THIS FREAK BARF?
...

I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE BEFORE MISTER SLIMY DIGESTS ME!
...RATS...!!

PUFF
THAT'S IT!!! ART OF THE DOPPEL-GANGER, SOLID FORM!!

PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
RIGHT!!
NOW, TO FIND SAKURA AND SASUKE...!!
(HUFF)
(PUFF)
I GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO WITH MY LIFE THAN END UP A BIG SNAKE TURD!
I'M THE SHINOBI WHO'LL BECOME LORD HOKAGE. SO DON'T MESS WITH ME!!
HUFF
SQUISH

WHUP

!!
SPEAK TO ME, SAS--

...THE QUESTION IS HOW TO EVADE HIM... UM...
...UM ...HOW DO WE RUN...? UM...

WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST, OR HE'LL FIND US AGAIN!

MUFFLE
!!

!

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LIKE THIS...
SASUKE IS SO JUMPY...

SASUKE!
SNAAAAAKE!!

MMM....
MNNNNN!!!

HSSSS

SSSLITHER
TAP

WHOA...
MY CHI IS SO OUT OF WHACK, I OVER-LOOKED A GIANT SNAKE!

!!
HSSSS

FWUK
FWUK
FWUK
YAAAAH!!
GET LOST!

YIPE!!

THUK THUK THUK

(HUFF)
(PUFF)
(PUFF)
SKKF

WHO
MP

SSS
FOR SHAME, LETTING YOUR GUARD DOWN! STAY ON YOUR TOES, LIKE A GOOD PREY SHOULD!
IT MAKES THE CHASE SO MUCH MORE REWARDING...
THER

!
SHRED
SHRED

...FOR THE PREDATOR!

WHIIP

SLITHER

Number 48: The Target Is...!!

Number 48: The Target Is...!!

...NARUTO.

HEH HEH... MY COMPLIMENTS ON YOUR STUNNING DEFEAT OF THE GIANT SNAKE...

!

THIS GUY'S A FREAK. HE'S A MAN... BUT ALL I CAN SEE WHEN I LOOK AT HIM IS A SNAKE. EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM...

...HE'S MADE THINGS WORSE. BUT THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO...

EVERY TIME I EVER TRIED TO RESCUE US...

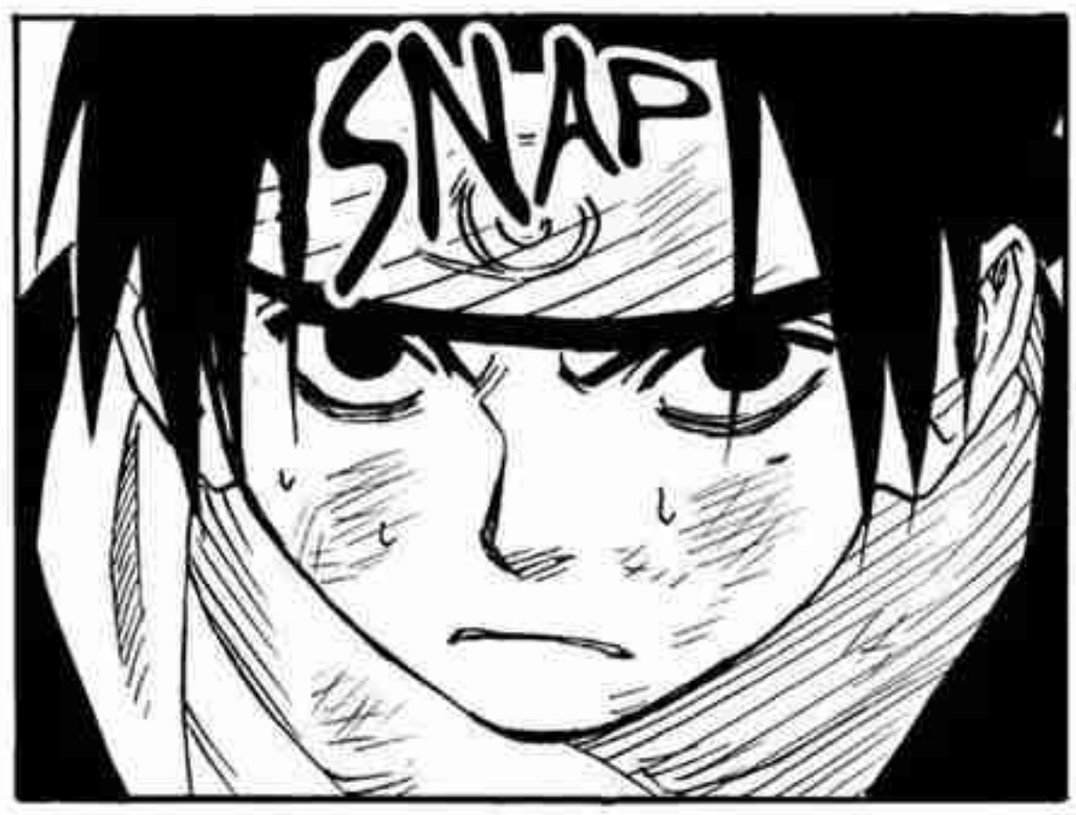
GRRRR

SNAKEY!

I'LL BET THAT SNAKE WAS HIS!

I'VE GOT TO STOP THIS BEFORE HE GETS US ALL KILLED.

HEY!
WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE...? OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...


SNAP

THIS IS ALL I CAN THINK OF...

IF IT'S OUR SCROLL YOU WANT, COME AND GET IT!
SHF
...TAKE IT AND GO!
JUST...

!
OH... SHARIN-GAN MIMIC EYES... BUT HE STOPPED!

HUH?

HEH...

WHAT?!
!!

IS THIS SOME CLEVER WAY OF BEATING THE ENEMY...? BY HANDING OVER EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT?!
SASUKE!! WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

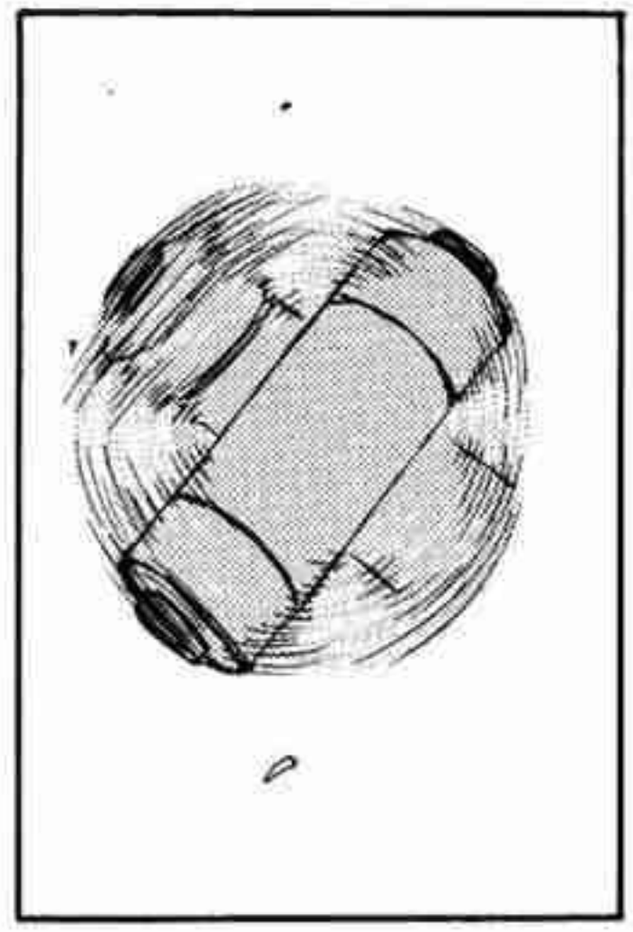
...LIES IN THE CHANCE OF THE PREDATOR BEING DISTRACTED BY SOME TASTIER BAIT!
...INSTINCTIVELY KNOWING THAT YOUR ONLY HOPE...

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NATURAL-BORN PREY...
WELL DONE...
SSS
LIDE

!!

FLIP
COME AND GET IT!
TAP
FLIP

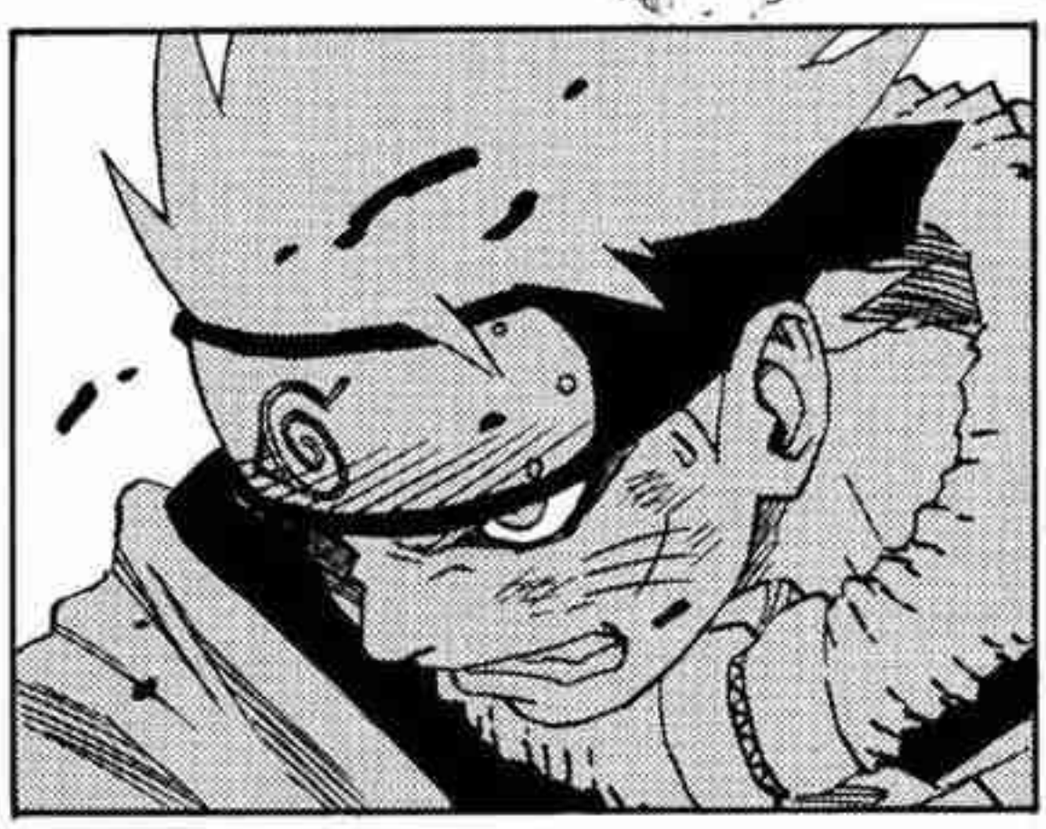
POK
!!



STAY OUT OF THIS!
YOU'LL RUIN EVERY-THING!!

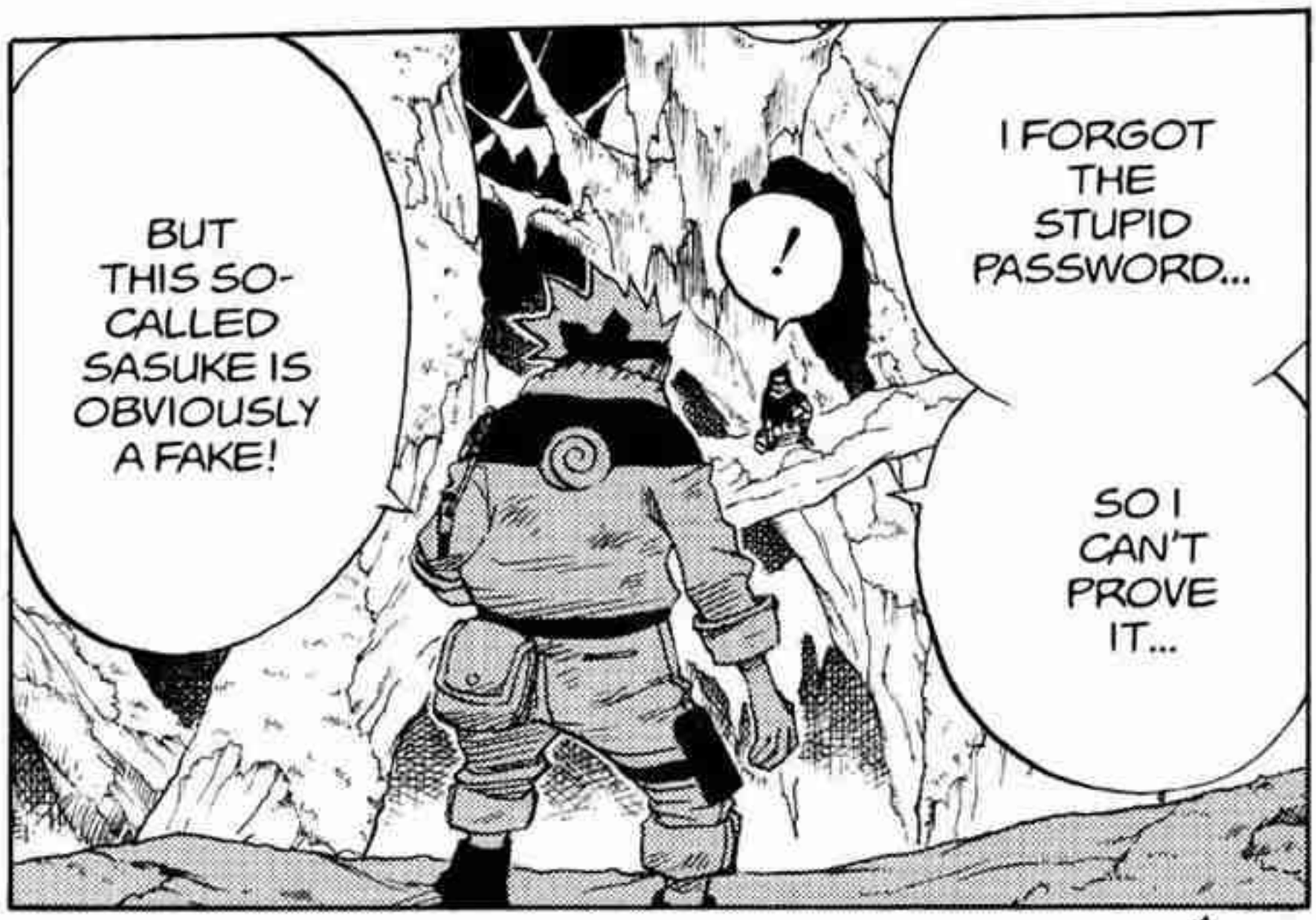
SKF

POW



HUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
TAP

TAK


BUT THIS SO-CALLED SASUKE IS OBVIOUSLY A FAKE!
!
I FORGOT THE STUPID PASSWORD...
SO I CAN'T PROVE IT...

NARUTO... WHAT ARE YOU...?

...THAT'S BULL!

NARUTO...
...YOU IDIOT! I'M ME...!

WHAT?!

AND YOU'RE THE IDIOT, IDIOT!

PUFF

YOU'RE A COWARD. WHICH SASUKE ISN'T. SO YOU'RE NOT HIM!!!

PUFF

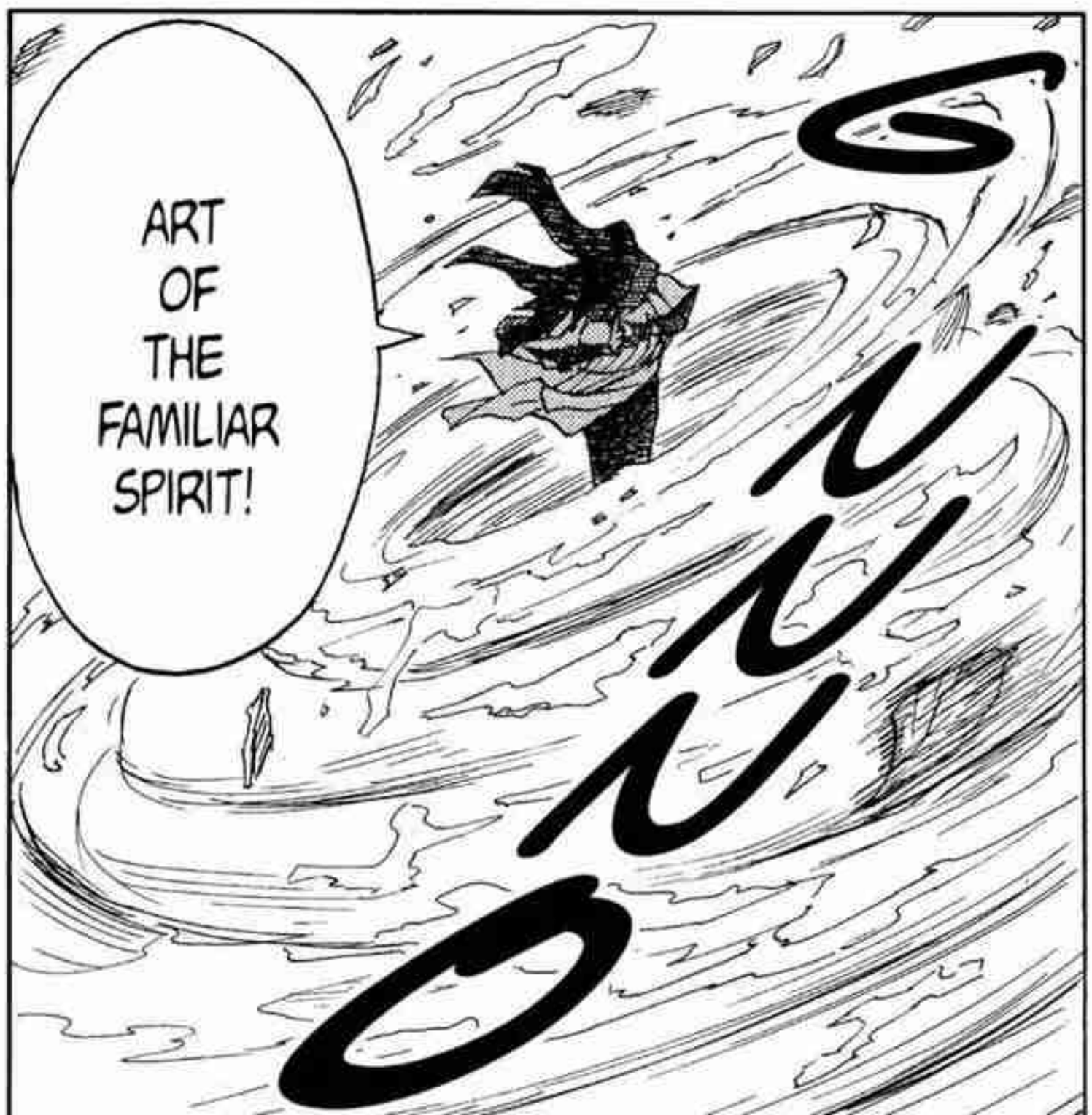
HUFF

AND YOU'RE RIGHT.

SHUT UP!

Tak Tak Tak

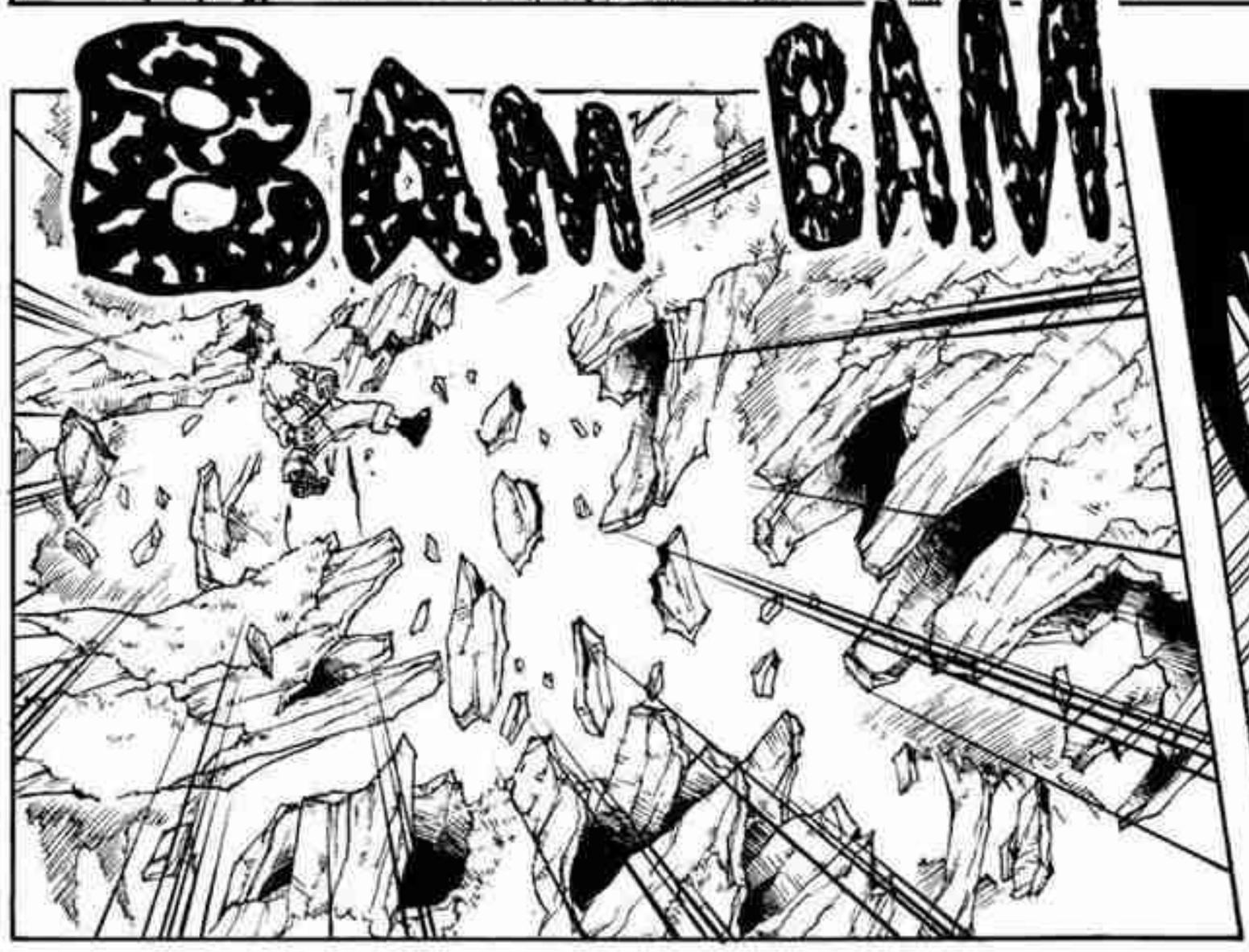
GRR



ONNG

!!

POW


BAM-BAM

NARUTO!!

WH
AM
...OW...

LUB
DUB

GAK
K

EXCELLENT... BUT LET'S NOT TAKE CHANCES. EAT THE BOY! ♡
Fwu uuP

SLLIP

LUB DUB

EAT SNOT, SUCKER!!
HOW COULD THE BRAT POSSIBLY...?

WHERE DID HE GET THAT KIND OF POWER?!
NARUTO'S... COM-PLETELY SNAPPED... BUT...

RRRROAR!!

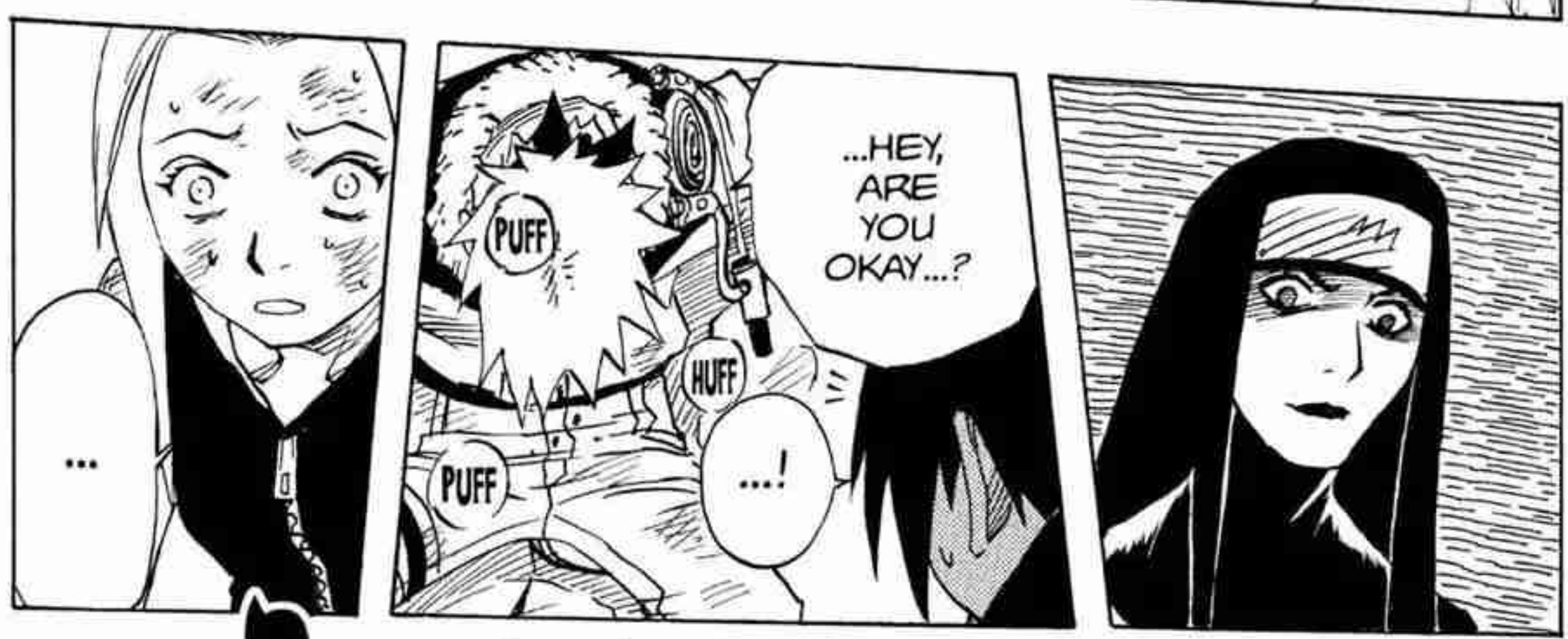
ONG
ONG
YAAH.
!!

...!!
IS THAT REALLY NARUTO...?!
LOOK AT THOSE EYES... HE'S...
AGH!!

!!
AND IT'S SASUKE'S TURN NEXT! HOW WILL HE TAKE IT?!
HO HO... AND THE FUN HAS JUST BEGUN!

POW
SASUKE!!

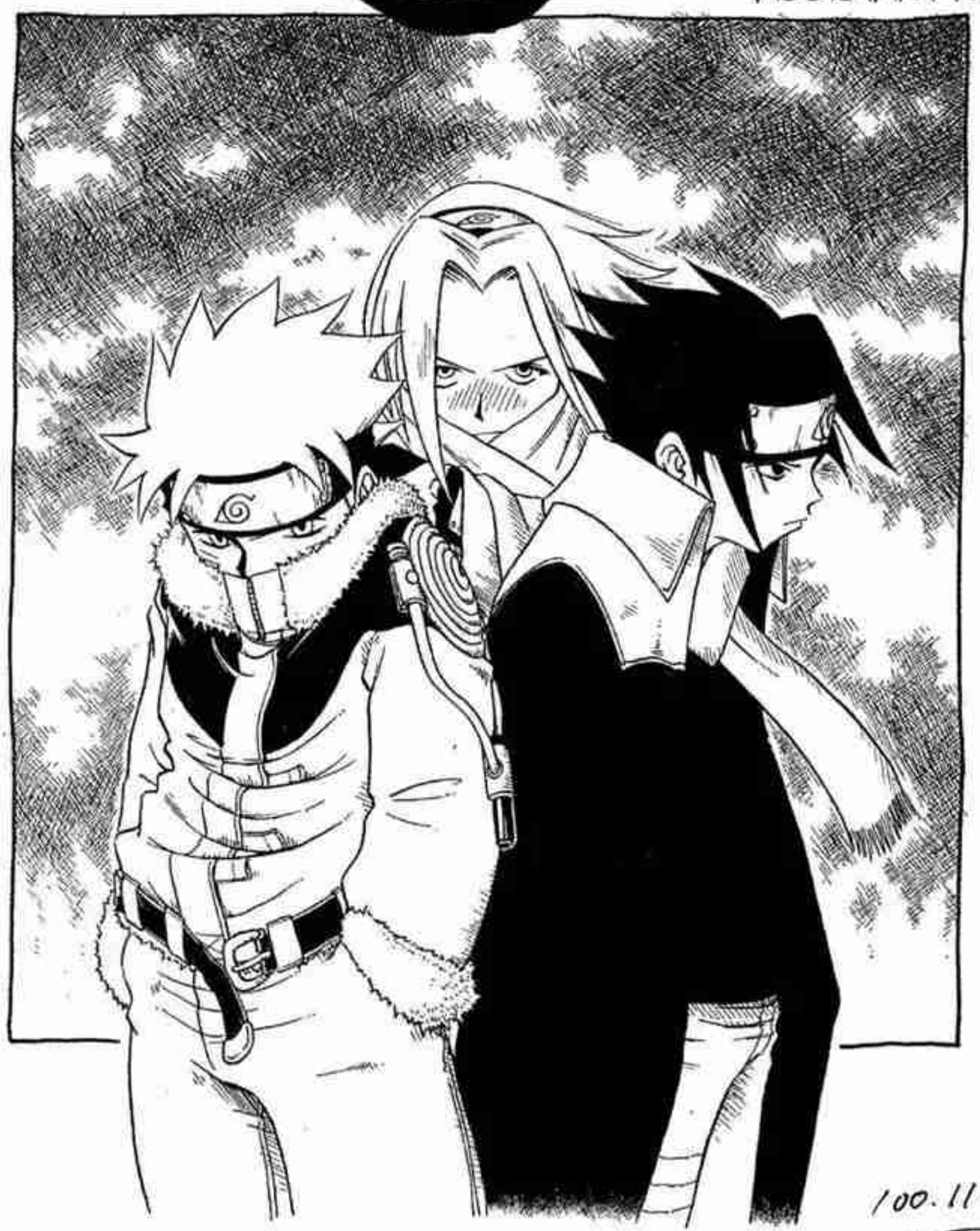
!!


...
PUFF
PUFF
HUFF
...HEY, ARE YOU OKAY...?
...!

LUB-DUB
HUFF
PUFF
...YOU BIG CHICKEN?!

NARUTO

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS PART TWO
ASSISTANT NO. 2: KAZISA OSAMU

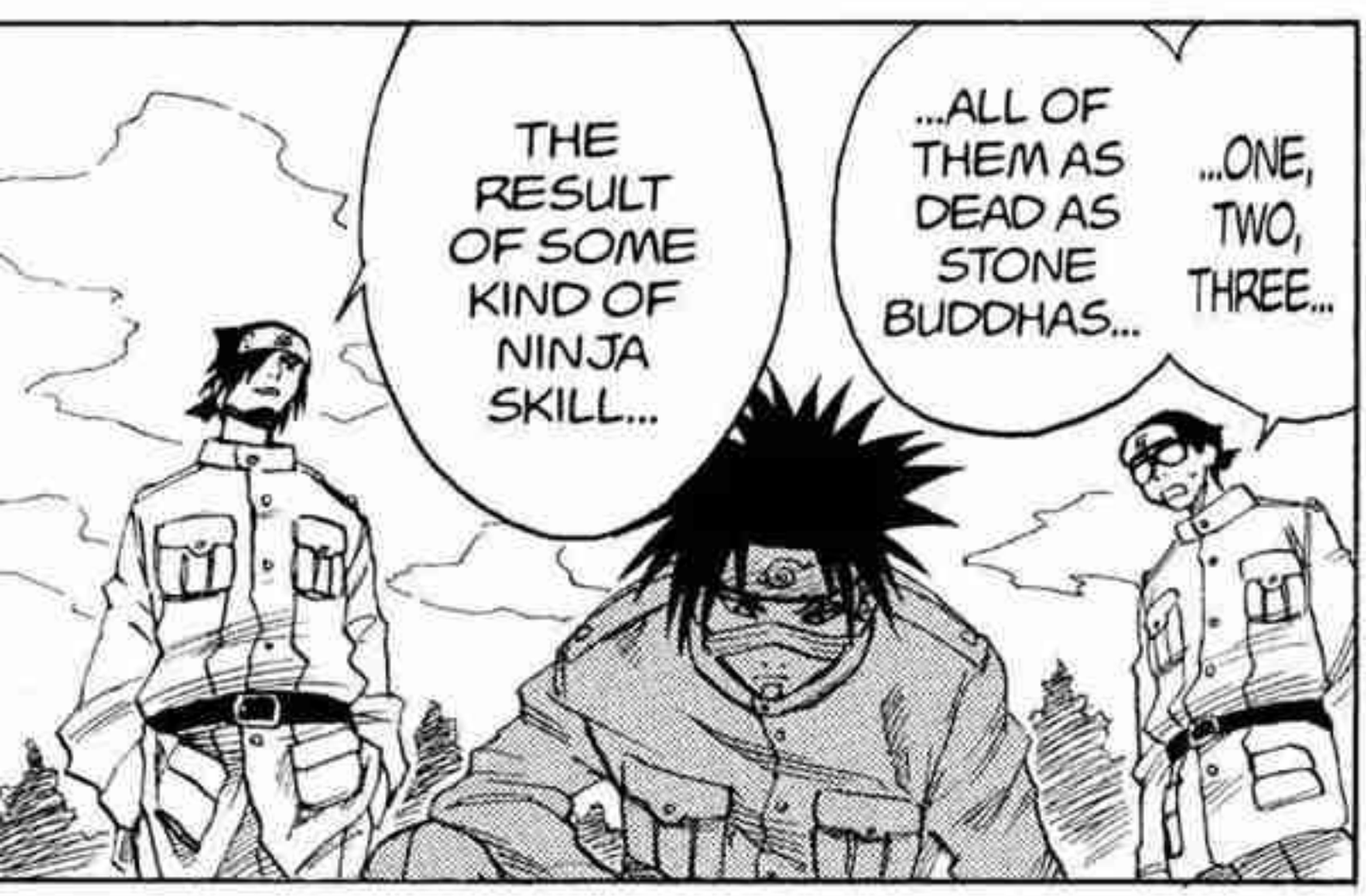


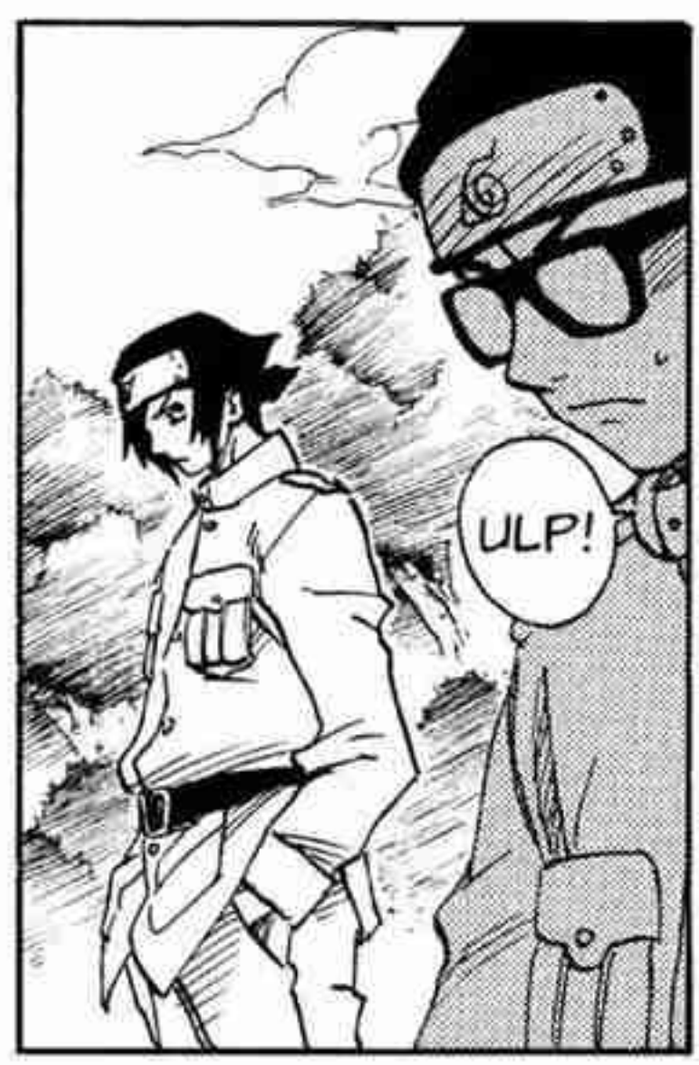
HAPPY FIRST ANNIVERSARY!

PROFILE

- USUALLY WEARS GLASSES, BUT WHEN HE TAKES THEM OFF AND PUTS ON HIS CONTACTS HE BECOMES THE HANDSOME OFFICE HEARTTHROB. NO, REALLY!
- HE FALLS ASLEEP WITH THE SPEED OF NOBITA FROM DORAEMON! IN ABOUT TWO SECONDS FLAT!
- LOVES TO TRAVEL THE WORLD. HE'S BEEN TO PRAGUE AND CHINA.
- PIERCES THOSE AROUND HIM WITH THE SHARPNESS OF HIS QUESTIONS.
- IN AN ARGUMENT, HIS WORDS ARE AS MERCILESS AND COLD AS ICE!
- ALWAYS THE FIRST ONE TO BUY THE LATEST TOYS...LIKE "THE CHALLENGER"! HE WORKS AS MY BETA--THE ARTIST WHO SPOTS THE SOLID BLACKS IN HAIR AND CLOTHING, LAYS DOWN THE HALF-TONES, COMPLETES THE BACK-GROUND ART... AND IS A WHIZ AT SPEED LINES AND SPECIAL EFFECTS. HAS A WAY WITH PLANT LIFE...ON THE PAGE.

Number 49 : Coward...!!





Number 49: Coward...!!

AND AS SOON AS I'M DONE WITH LUNCH, I'LL GET TO THE TOWER...

...SO I CAN GREET ANYONE WHO MANAGES TO PASS THIS TEST.

MMMM. NOTHING GOES BETTER WITH DANGO RICE DUMP-LINGS...

...THAN OSHIRUKO BEAN SOUP.

SLIP

SHA

TERRIBLE NEWS, LADY ANKO!!

ZAA AM

WHOP

AH... A COMPLETE KONOHA TREE-LEAF MARK!!

FLIP

...IN LESS THAN A DAY.

THE GOOD ONES SHOULD BE DONE...

DEAD... AND VERY WEIRD.

PLEASE, COME SEE FOR YOURSELF!

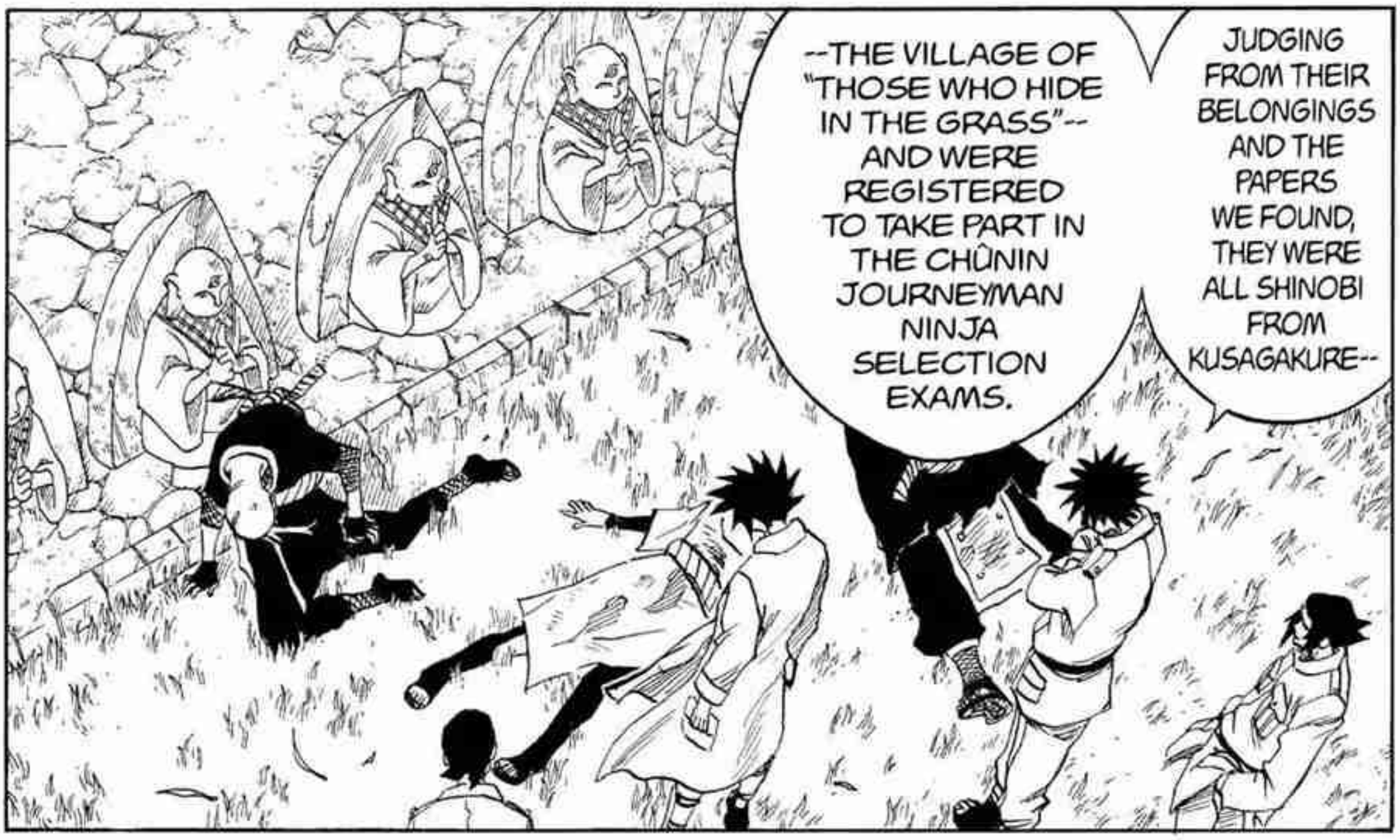
DEAD BODIES?!

DEAD BODIES! THREE OF THEM...

!

ALREADY? WHAT IS IT?

WEIRD... HOW?!
ULP!


--THE VILLAGE OF "THOSE WHO HIDE IN THE GRASS"-- AND WERE REGISTERED TO TAKE PART IN THE CHÛNIN JOURNEYMAN NINJA SELECTION EXAMS.
JUDGING FROM THEIR BELONGINGS AND THE PAPERS WE FOUND, THEY WERE ALL SHINOBI FROM KUSAGAKURE--

...THEIR FEATURES ARE COMPLETELY GONE...
...THE FACES AS SMOOTH AS THOUGH THEY'D BEEN MELTED AWAY.

AND, AS YOU CAN SEE...
...

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... I RECOGNIZE WHOSE TECHNIQUE WAS USED HERE!

BUT WHY WOULD HE MEDDLE IN THIS?

I'M GOING AFTER THE IMPOSTERS!

ASK THAT HE DEPLOY TWO ADDITIONAL BLACK OPS TO THE FOREST OF DEATH AT ONCE!!

NARUTO...

ARE YOU OKAY...
...YOU BIG CHICK-EN?
!!!
RRR

YOU'RE A COWARD. WHICH SASUKE ISN'T. SO YOU'RE NOT HIM!!!
AND YOU'RE THE IDIOT, IDIOT!

HEYYYY! GET OFF ME!!

FWIIIP
!!
!!
YAAAH!

!!

HEH HEH... THE BRAT OF NINE TAILS IS STILL ALIVE AND KICKING!
FWIP

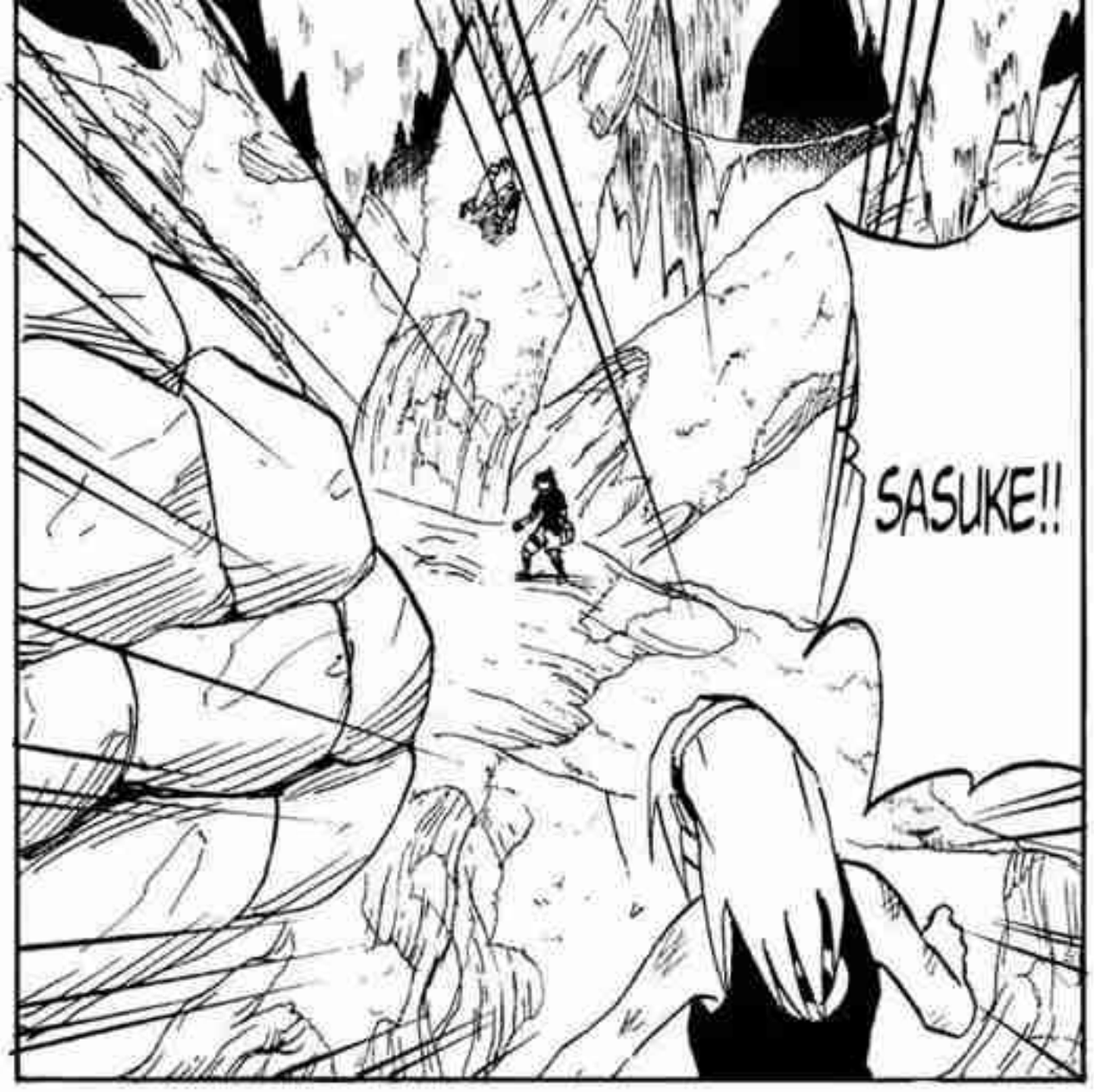
THERE'S THE PROOF. THE SPELL THAT SEALS THE MONSTER WITHIN APPEARS ON YOUR SKIN LIKE A TATTOO.
FLIP

HOW FASCINATING THAT, WHEN HE IS CONSUMED WITH RAGE, HE LOSES HIMSELF... AND A BIT OF THE NINE-TAILED DEMON FOX TRAPPED WITHIN...
...COMES THROUGH. AN AMAZING DEVELOP-MENT!
POOM
POOM
POOM
POOM
木
TREE
火
FIRE
土
EARTH
水
WATER
金
METAL

SASUKE! NARUTO NEEDS YOU!!
A FIVE-PRONGED SPELL!!
UGH

THIS SCROLL READS *TEN*, MEANING "HEAVEN."

SNF


SASUKE!!

RIGHT?!
NARUTO'S NO COWARD!
NARUTO MAY BE NOTHING LIKE YOU... HE'S CLUMSY, AND HE HOLDS US BACK...
AND SOMETIMES HE'S A BIG NUISANCE, BUT AT LEAST HE'S GOT GUTS!

...WITHOUT HONOR!

CLING-ING TO LIFE...

BABY BROTHER, YOU'RE PATHETIC. IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, SETTLE FOR HATING ME UNTIL YOU CAN!
HATE ME... AND LIVE. LIKE THE COWARD YOU ARE!

NO!!

SASUKE!!

HEH HEH... IT APPEARS THAT THE BLOOD OF HIS ANCESTORS IS RISING UP IN THIS ONE, DEMANDING ACTION.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

ONNNG

WE'LL TAKE OUR TIME, SO YOU CAN SHOW ME ALL YOUR MOVES!
SWIPE

GRAB

BUT MAYBE I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN THE DUNCE ALL THIS TIME!

NARUTO... SAKURA...!

I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH THE HOPE OF ONE DAY KILLING MY OLDER BROTHER. I THOUGHT IT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...

SMAT
I SEE HIM!!
!!!
!
HOP
FWUP
SSS
FWUN

NOT BAD!
SHM
THE WAY HE ANTICIPATES MY EVERY MOVE... THE ACCURACY OF HIS TARGETING... HE SEES ME!
TOK
FWAN
RRRRRRR
TWANG
SKWEEE
FWUM
TWANG
STRING?
FWUNNG
NG

SMAT

A SHARINGAN "WINDMILL" -- A THREE-PRONGED ATTACK!

GDINNNG

HE MEANS TO USE THE ART OF FIRE-- DRAGON-FLAME TECHNIQUE!

HAH!

HEH... SUCH A SHAME...

HE FLAWLESSLY PERCEIVED MY ESCAPE ROUTE AND STRUCK ALONG A PATH I DIDN'T SEE MYSELF...

FWUP

!!
SIZZLE

FLA
SH

SIZZLE
TRULY, A WORTHY SUCCESSOR TO THE HONORED NAME OF CLAN UCHIHA!
THAT ONE SO YOUNG SHOULD HAVE SUCH MASTERY OF THE SHARINGAN MIRROR EYE POWER...!

PUFF
HUFF

...I WANT YOU, AFTER ALL...!
FLAKE
IN FACT... I BELIEVE...

SHRED
IT'S MARVEL-OUS FUN, HAVING YOU SHOW ME ALL YOUR TRICKS!

SASUKE...!
TAK
HUFF
PUFF

♪ VRRRW
YOU REALLY ARE HIS BROTHER, AREN'T YOU?
YOU CAN SEE-- AND CONCEAL-- THINGS WITH THOSE EYES OF YOURS THAT ITACHI HIMSELF NEVER DREAMED OF!

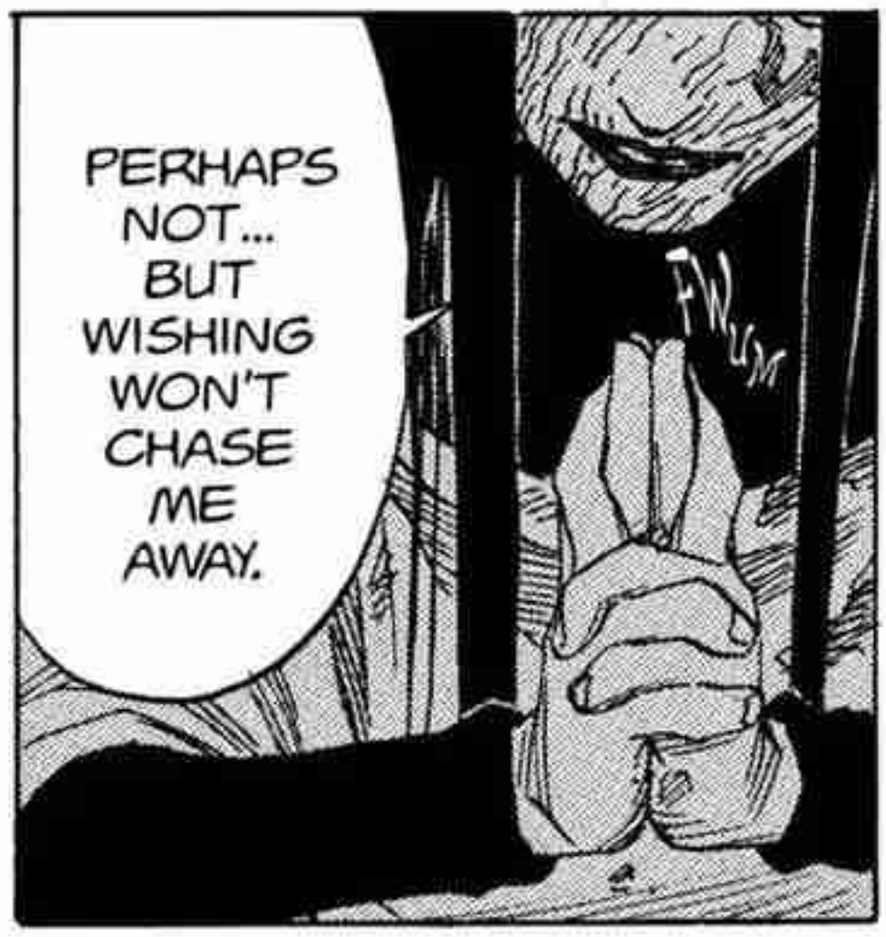
GASP
WE'RE PARALYZED!!
GASP

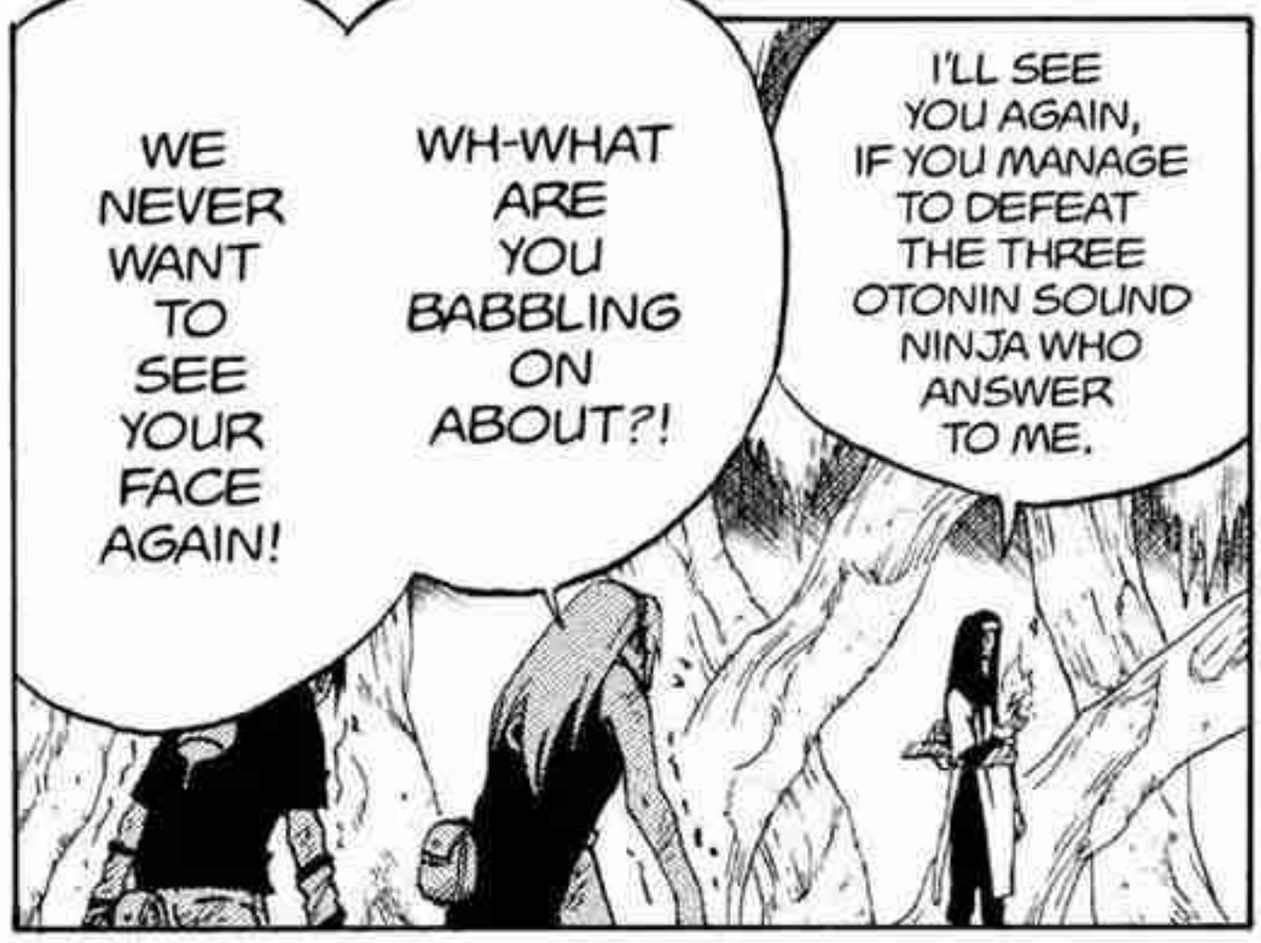
JUST WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!

!!

OH!!
THE SCROLL!

...THEN PASS THIS EXAM AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN!
SIZZLE
I'M OROCHIMARU, THE GIANT SNAKE.
IF YOU'D EVER LIKE A REMATCH...


PERHAPS NOT... BUT WISHING WON'T CHASE ME AWAY.
FWUSH


WE NEVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE AGAIN!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ON ABOUT?!
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, IF YOU MANAGE TO DEFEAT THE THREE OTONIN SOUND NINJA WHO ANSWER TO ME.

GULP
!!
!!
ZZUNG

!!!

SHLUK

!!

SHHM
...IN THE QUEST FOR POWER!
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN, SASUKE...

Shs
...

OH!
WH-WHAT...? EVERYTHING... HURTS!
KNOT

CLENNNNNN
!!
CH

JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY...
KRAK
SSHHH
POP

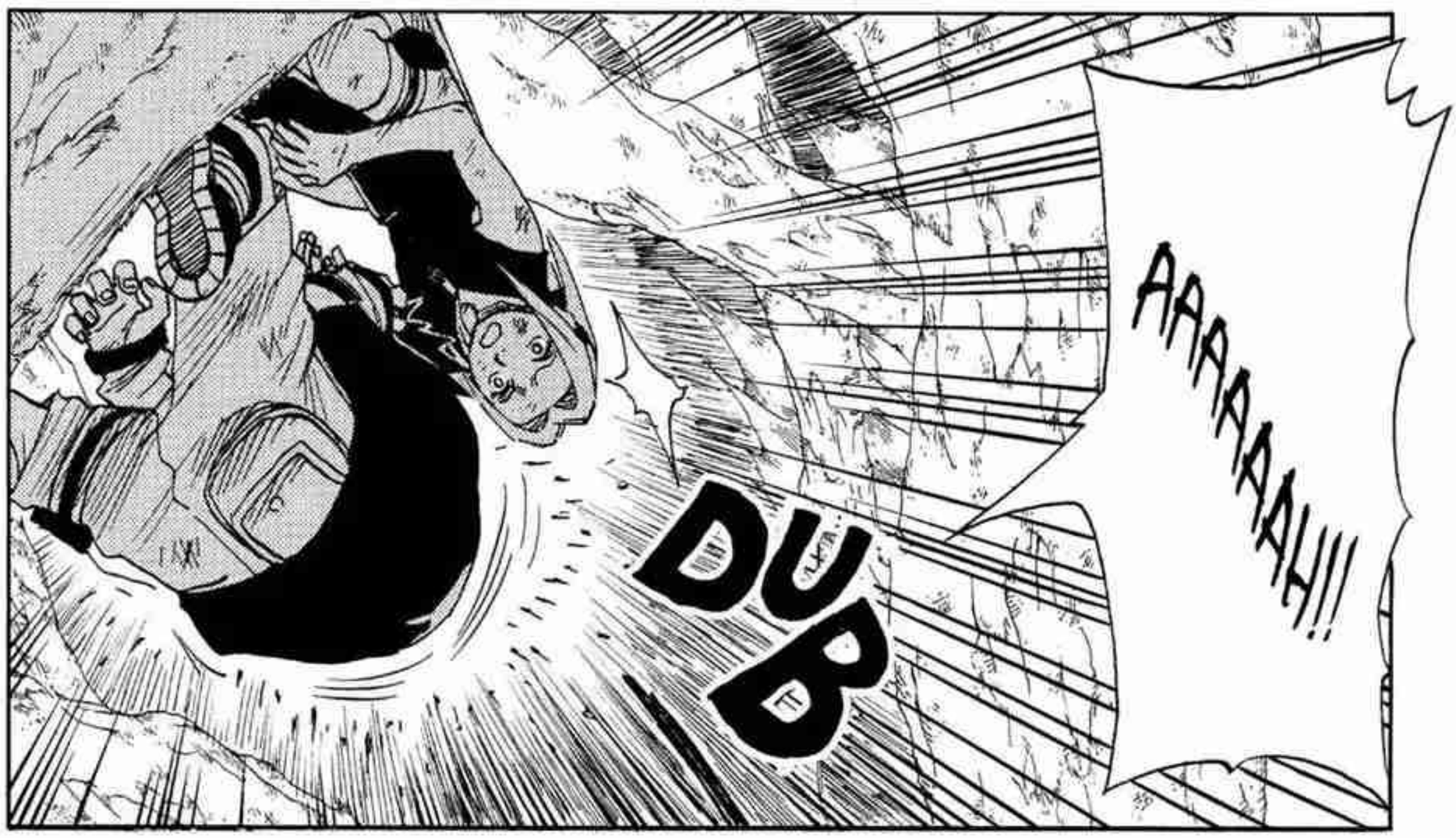
SHFFF
WHAT DID YOU DO TO SASUKE?!
POP
OWW!
KRAK

SASUKE!!!
!!
THROB
HAUGH!!

?!

Number 50: I've Got To...!!

UNH...!



AGH!!

UNH...

SQUEEZE

AHHEEE!!

-SOB-

SCRAPE

URG...

!!

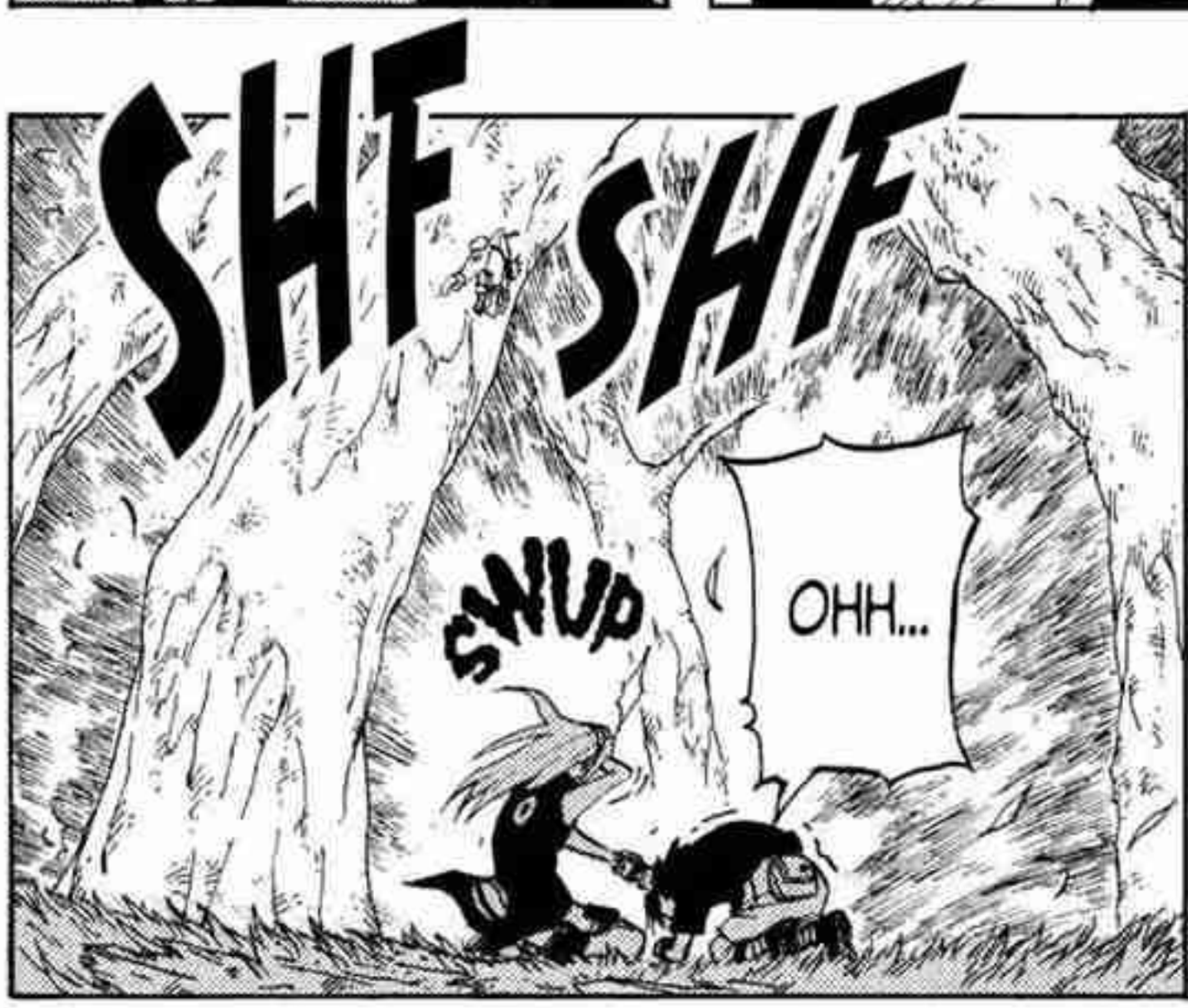
NARUTO... SASUKE IS...

SHFSHF

NARUTO...

ARGH!!

...


SHF SHF
SNUP
OHH...

SOB

PAFF
AIEEE
UNH...
OHH...

AIEEE
EEE

!!

UNNH...

TAK

...THE WORSE THIS SITUATION WILL GET!
GRRRIT
I HAVE TO FIND HIM SOON! THE DARKER IT GETS...
IT'S ALREADY DUSK!

WHAT'S HE PLAYING AT?!
THE QUESTION IS...
...WHY DID HE CHOOSE TO SHOW UP NOW?

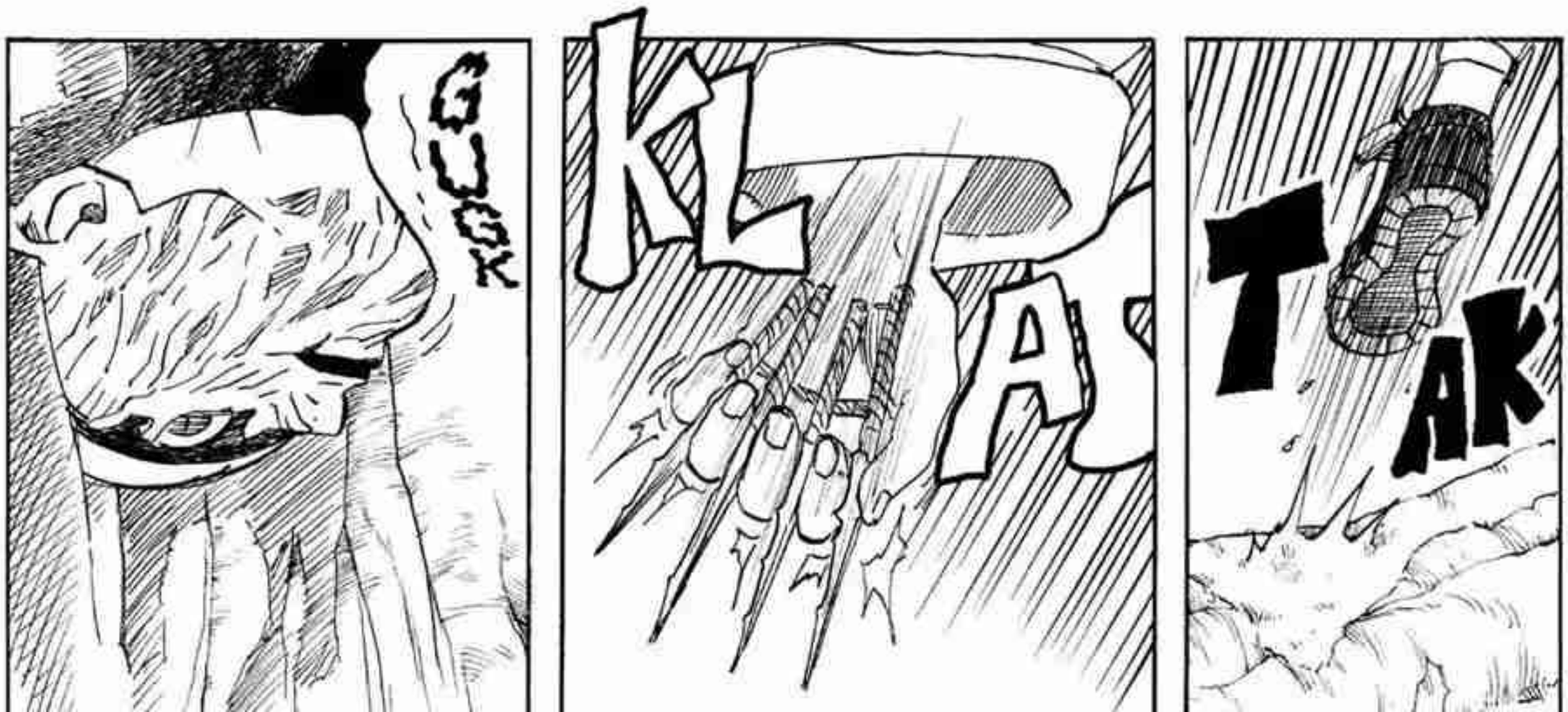
IF IT REALLY IS YOU, THEN WE'LL END THIS. RIGHT HERE. RIGHT NOW.

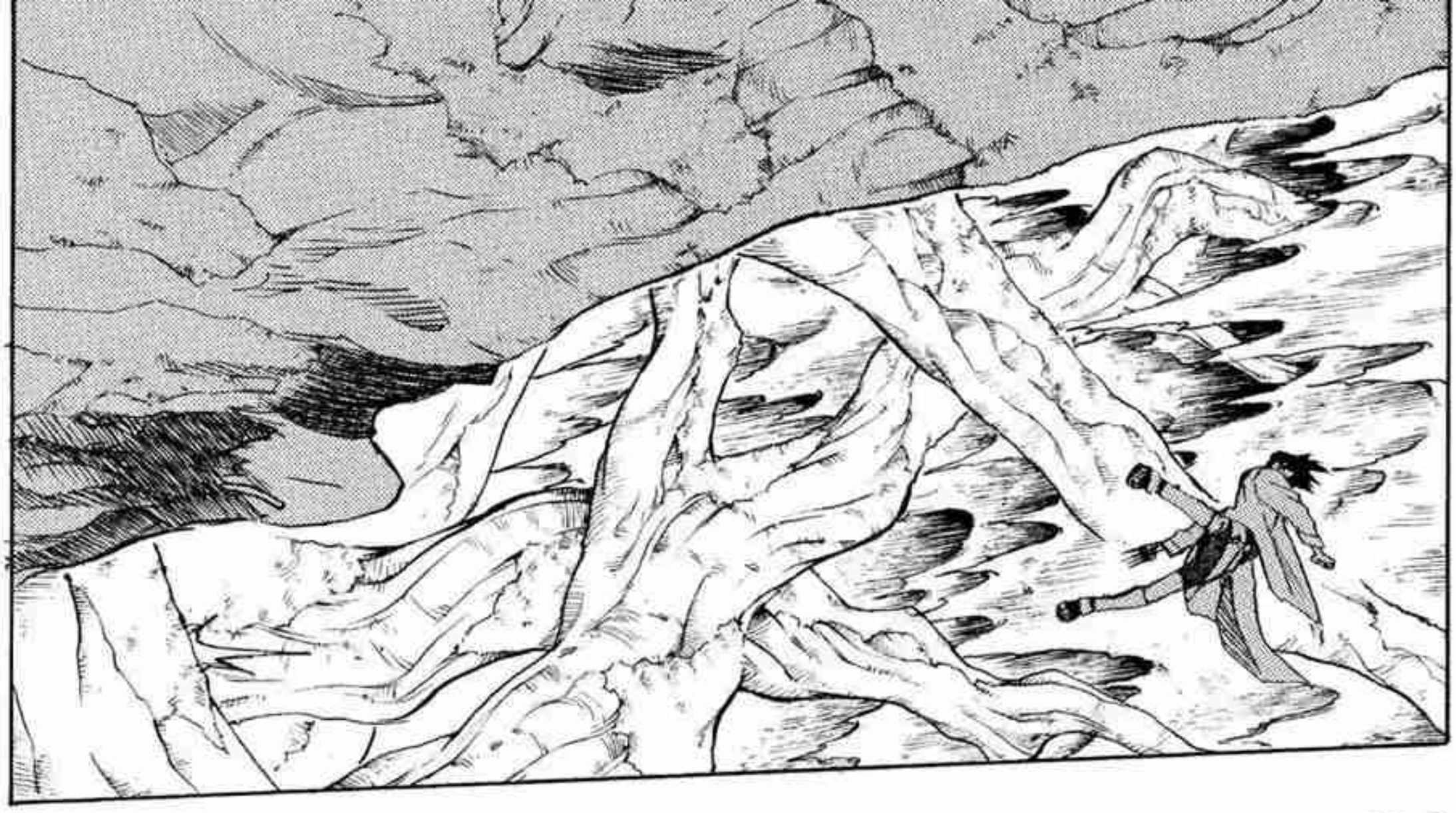
NOT THAT IT MATTERS...

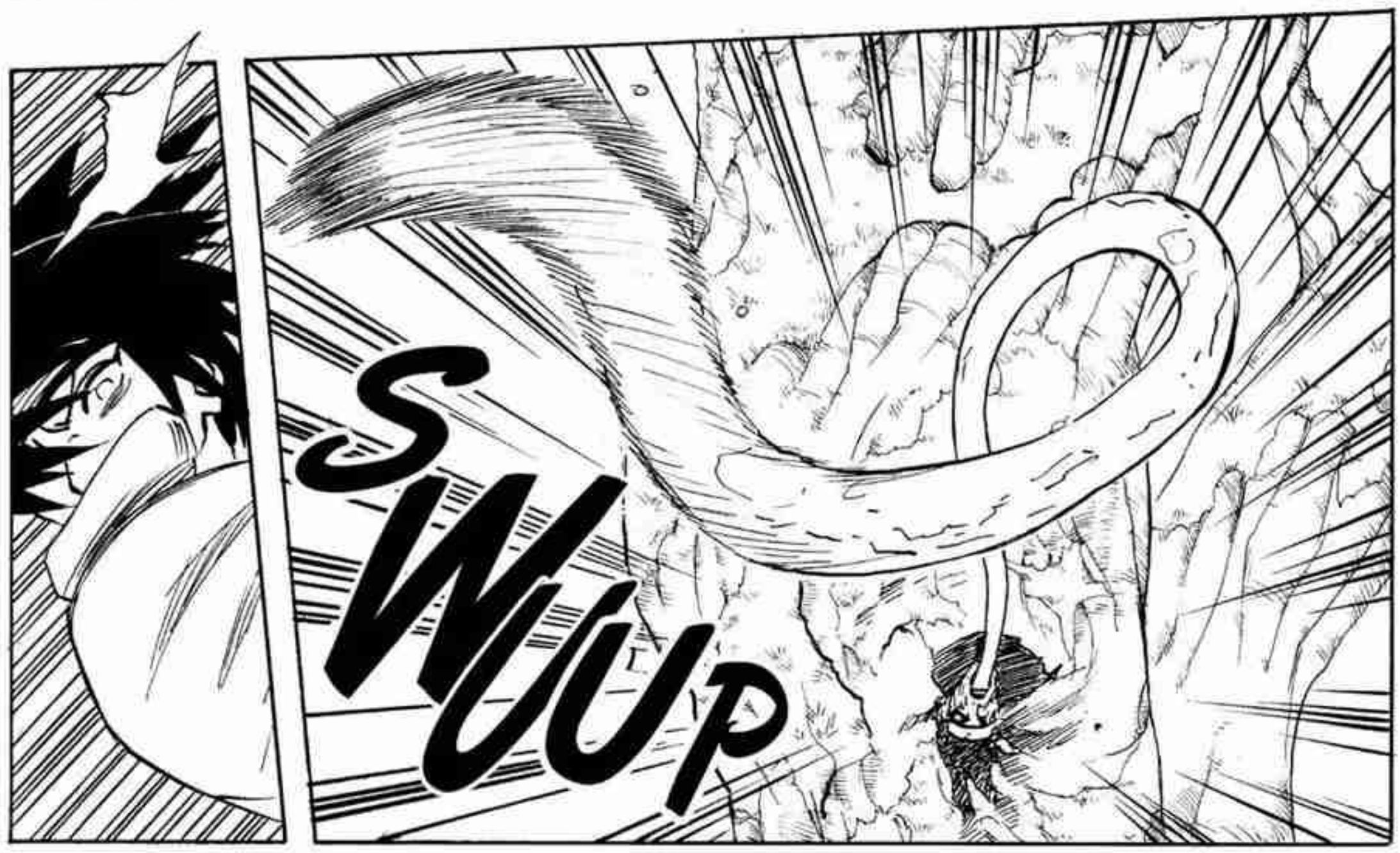
TAK TAK

...ISN'T IT, OROCHIMARU?

IMPOSSIBLE...!






SWUUP

TAK
KLAT
FUAD

KRNCH
GOK
HSSS
YOU CAN'T ESCAPE... "STRIKING SNAKE" TECHNIQUE!
HSS
KRIK KRIK
YANK
HEH
ROLLING

KRAKLE

SHT SHT

OHH!

!!

AGH!

AHH!!

FWUUP

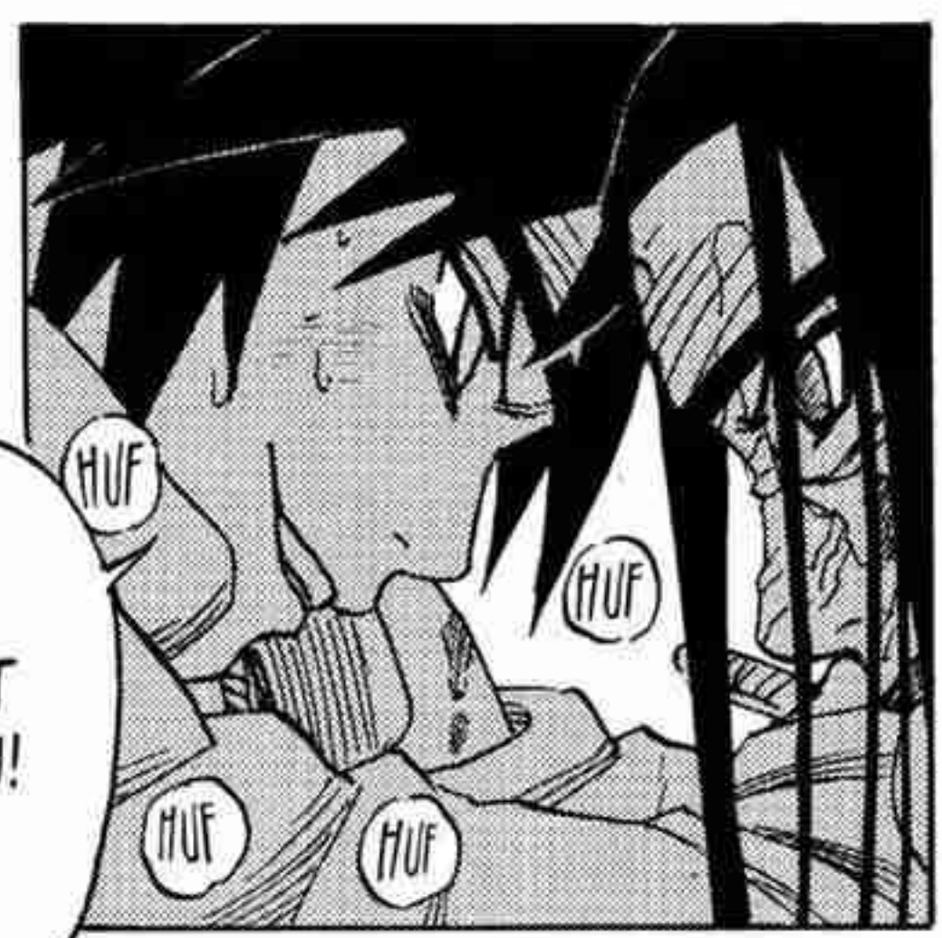
SKFF

KLAT

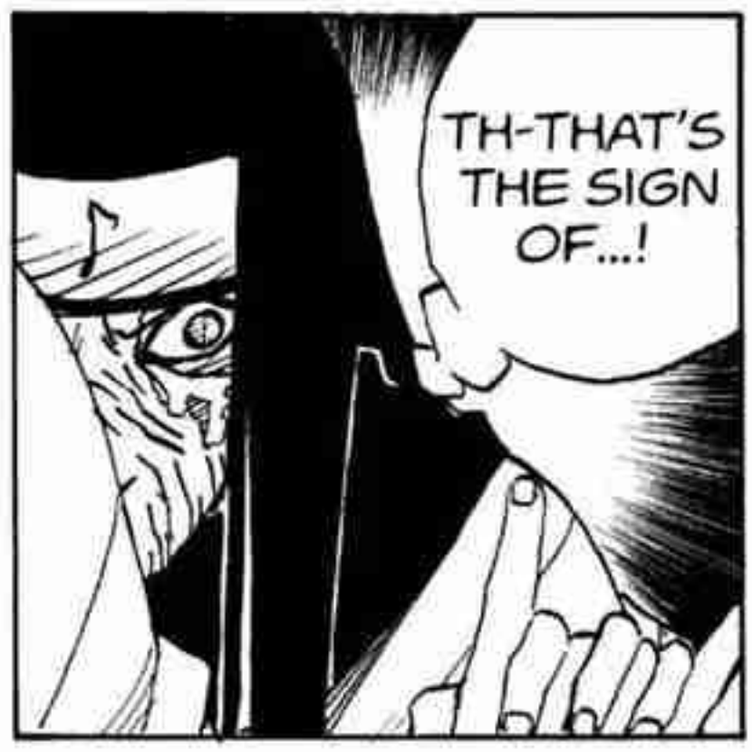
SMAT

SHAFUK

OROCHIMARU, COULD YOU LEND ME A HAND? THE LEFT ONE?
!!
ONNG
GOT YOU!


HUF
HUF
HUF
HUF

THAT'S RIGHT... WE'RE GOING TO DIE TOGETHER. HERE.


TH-THAT'S THE SIGN OF...!

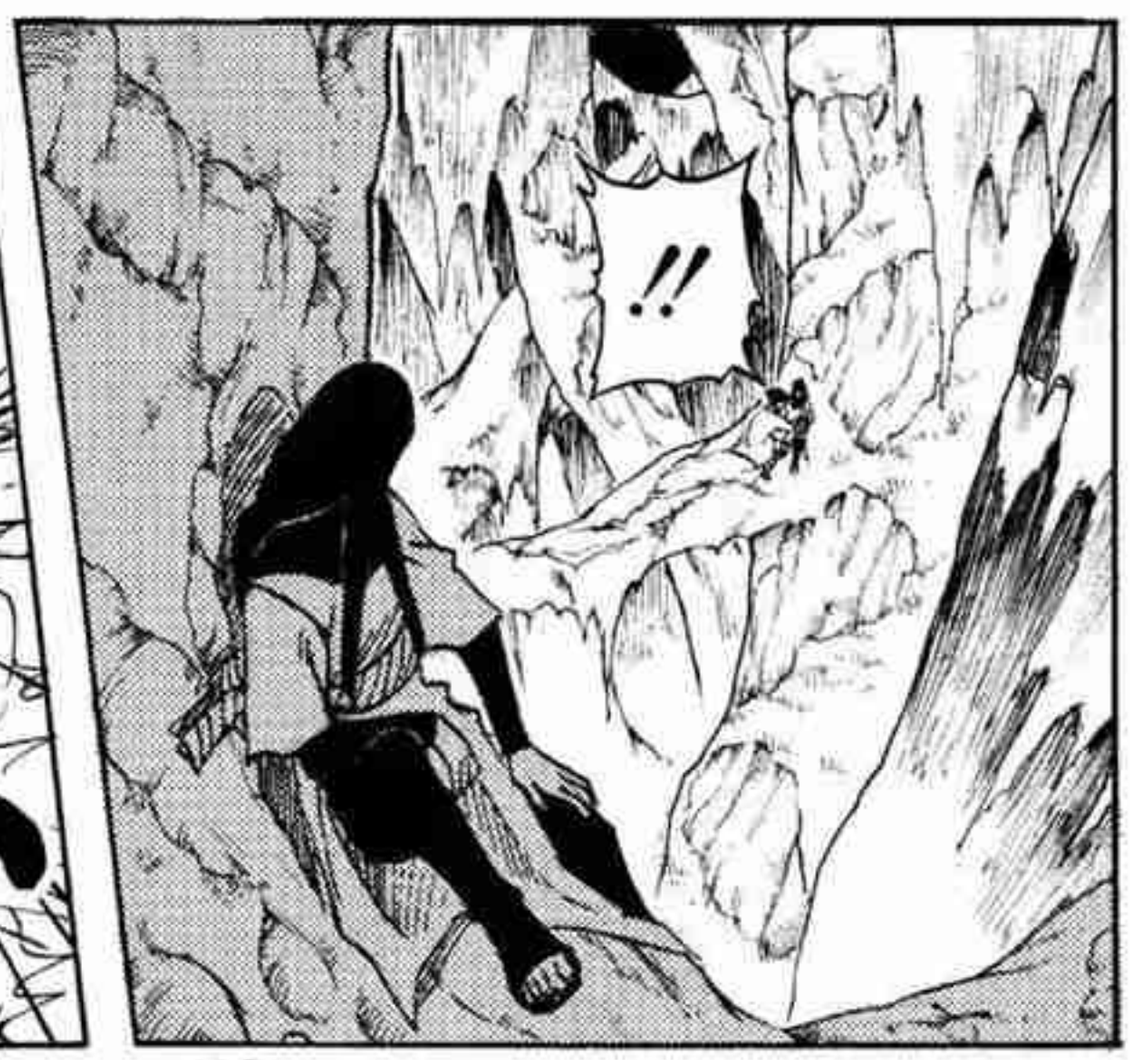
ONNG

!!

NINJA TECHNIQUE-- "TWIN SNAKES KILL EACH OTHER"!
YOU MEAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE? HOW PRECIOUS!

BUT THAT'S A DOPPEL-GANGER...

!!
SINCE, FOR THE TIME BEING, IT APPEARS YOU HAVE BECOME ONE OF THIS VILLAGE'S JÔNIN NINJA ELITE...


!!

WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHY NOW?!
WHY?
SNAP

LUB DUB!

RRRIP
YOU MUSTN'T JUST...
...SQUANDER EVERY SECRET I TAUGHT YOU.
SHF

...ONE MIGHT ALMOST SUSPECT YOU'RE NOT GLAD TO SEE ME!

FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE, OF COURSE, MY DEAREST ANKO! BUT FROM YOUR COLD REACTION...

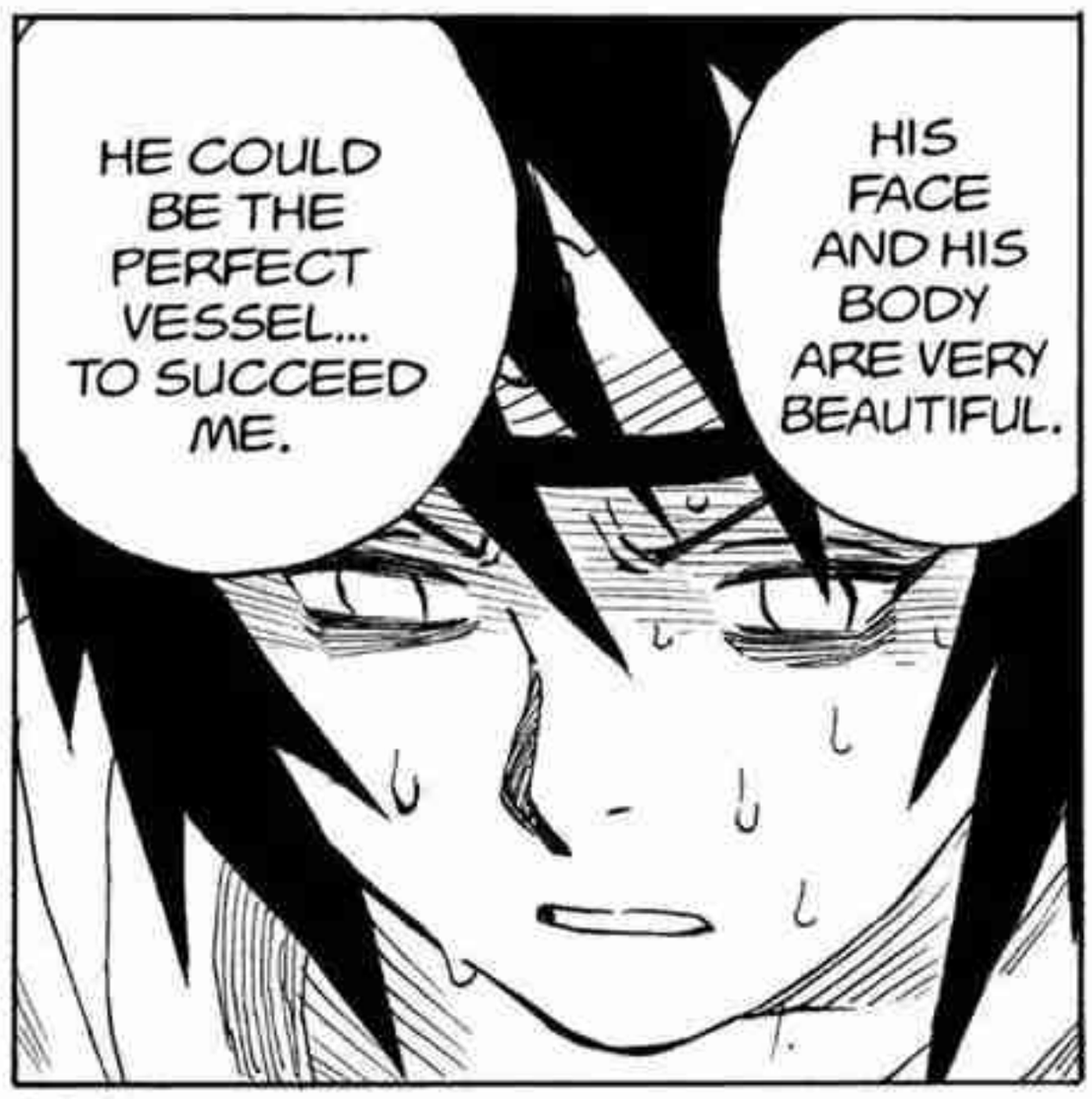
THERE'S A NINE OUT OF 10 CHANCE THAT YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE...
HE MAY SURVIVE... AS YOU DID.
BUT JUST THE SAME...

YOU MONSTER!
UHH...!
HUF
IT'S A TIME BOMB... HE'LL BE DEAD IN NO TIME!
HUF
HUF

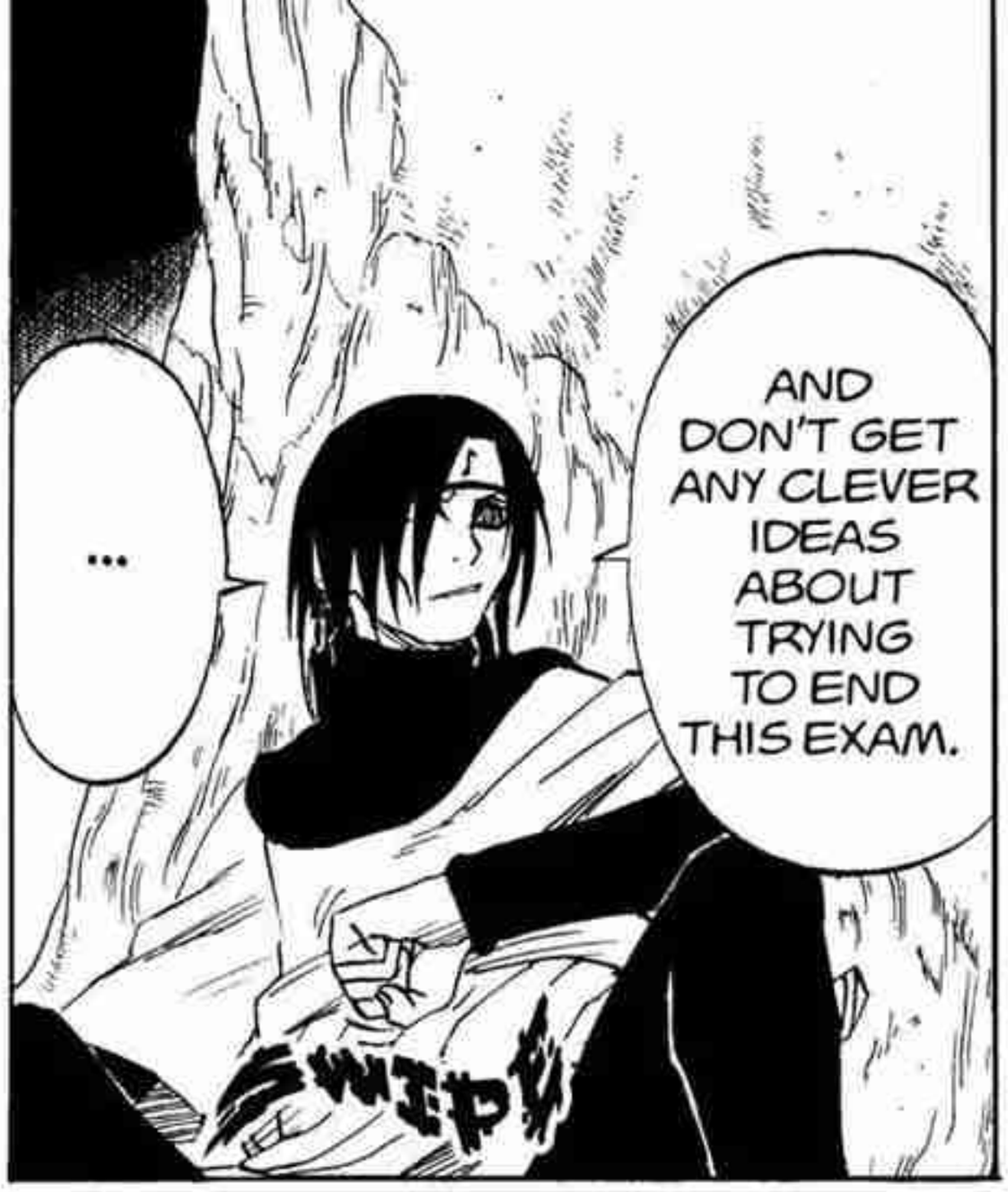
...ON ONE OF THE BOYS.

...ARE YOU STILL ANGRY THAT I USED YOU AND ABANDONED YOU?
OH, MY DEAR! JEALOUS? AFTER ALL THIS TIME...

...A CHARGE?
AND THE THOUGHT OF HIM GIVES YOU...


HE COULD BE THE PERFECT VESSEL... TO SUCCEED ME.
HIS FACE AND HIS BODY ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL.

THIS CHILD SEEMS QUITE EXCEPTIONAL... UNLIKE YOU.
UNGH...
HIS BLOODLINE IS THAT OF THE UCHIHA CLAN...

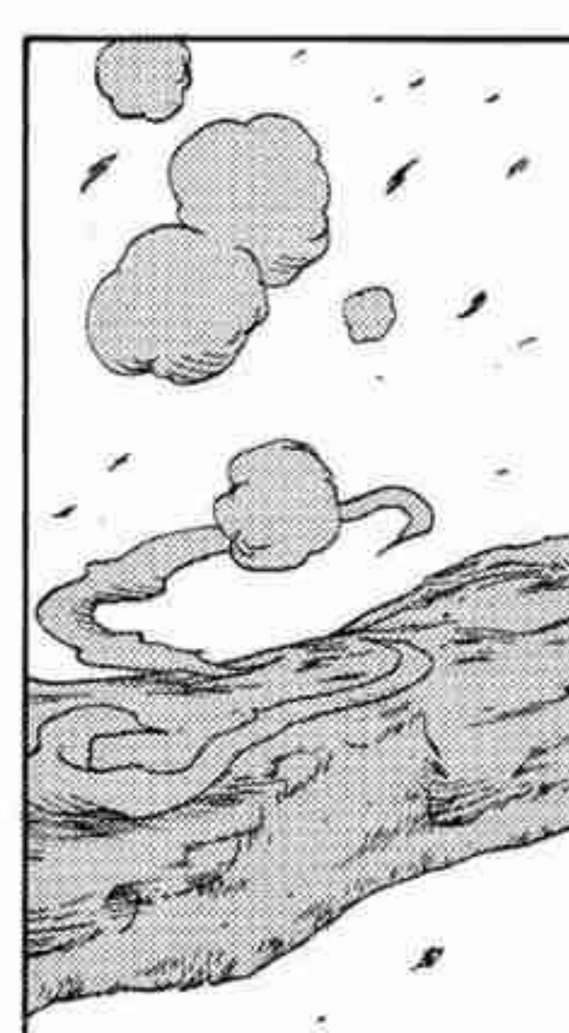

...
AND DON'T GET ANY CLEVER IDEAS ABOUT TRYING TO END THIS EXAM.
SWIPE

UGH...
I FORESEE INTERESTING TIMES...
...ASSUMING HE SURVIVES.
KLAW

...IT WILL SPELL THE END OF KONOHA VILLAGE!
IF SOMETHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ROB ME OF MY ENJOYMENT...
ONNG

THREE OF MY PROTÉGÉS HAVE TAKEN THE PLACES OF THREE OF YOUR OWN.
I PLAN TO SAVOR THIS.
SHHF

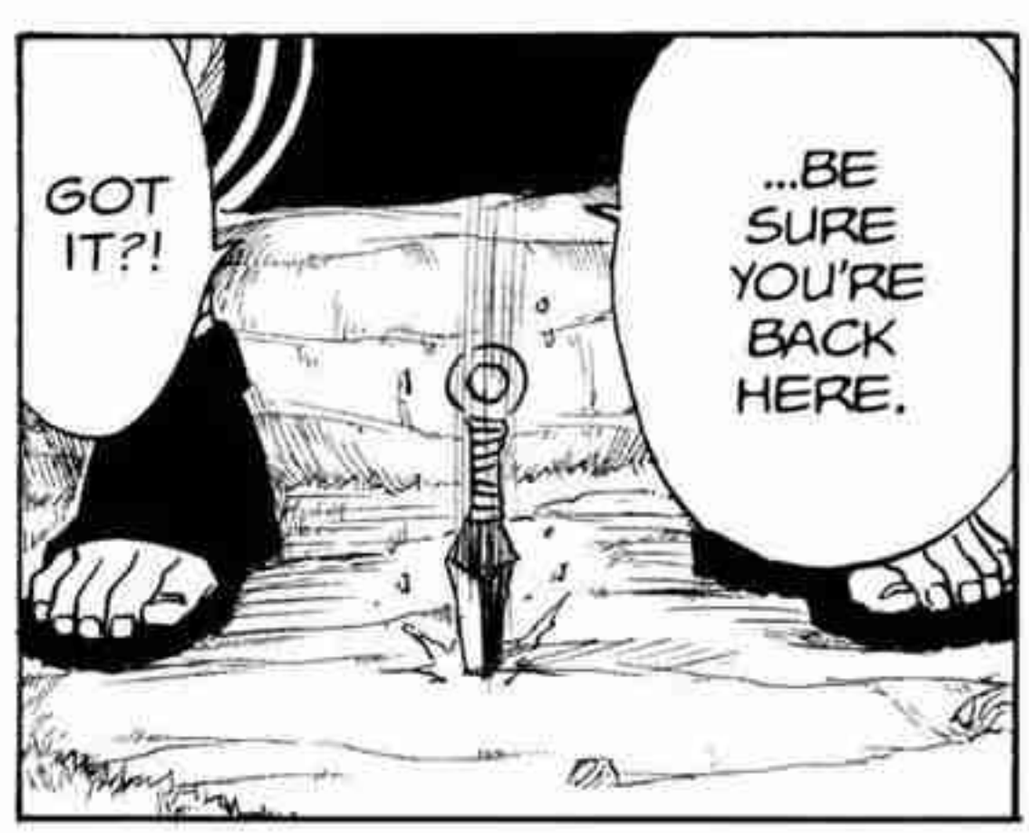
HUF
HUF



IT'LL PROBABLY START TO GET LIGHT IN THE NEXT HOUR OR SO.

WE WERE ABLE TO USE OUR FIRST DAY TO SECURE FOOD AND WATER.

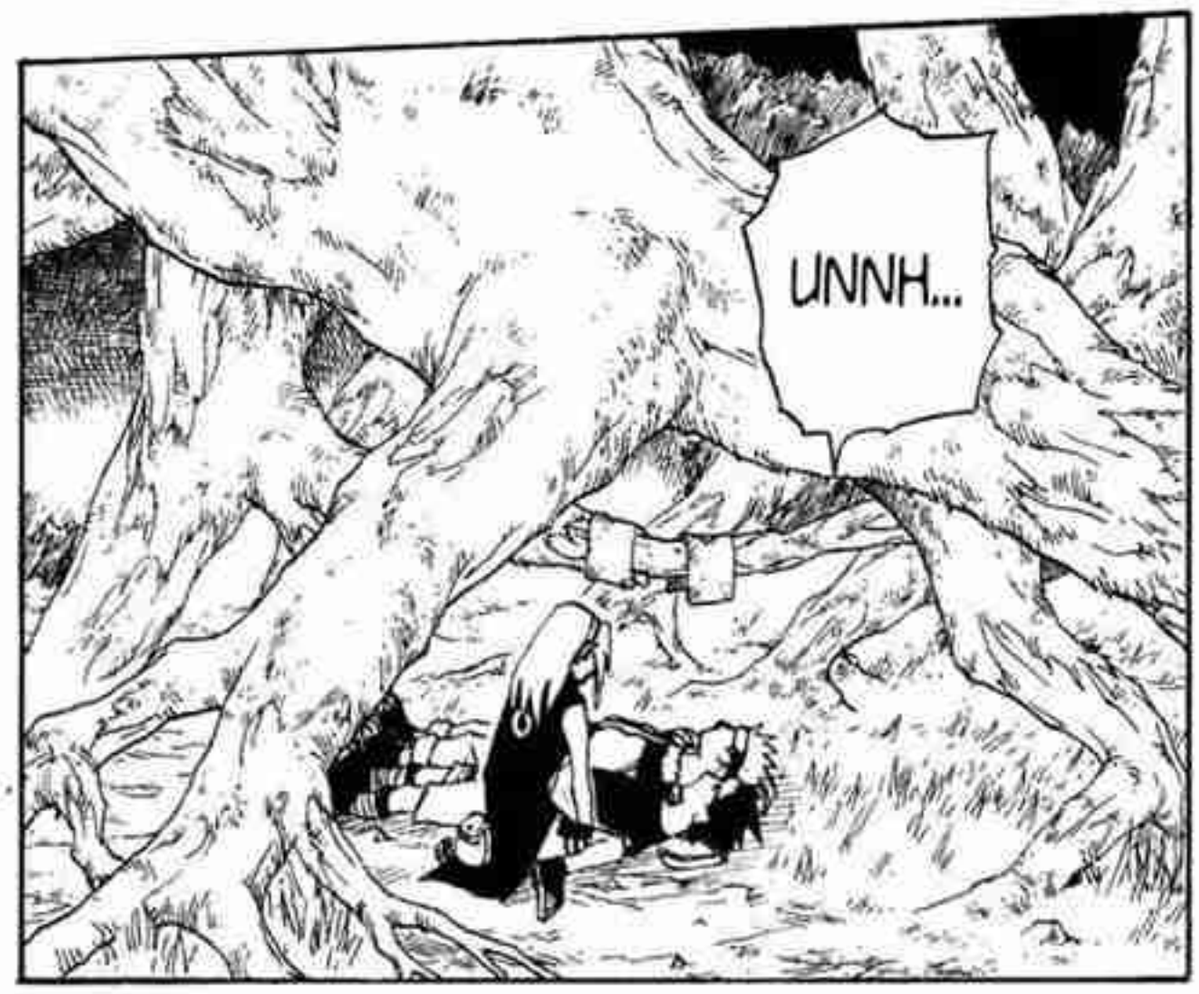
MNCH MNCH



HOP HOP HOP

LET'S GO!!

GOOD...!



I...

HEH HEH... THERE THEY ARE!

I'VE GOT TO PROTECT THEM BOTH!
GRRRR
I'VE...

IF THE OTHER TWO GET IN OUR WAY, WE CAN TAKE 'EM OUT, RIGHT?
AS LORD OROCHIMARU COMMANDED, WE'LL STRIKE AT DAWN!
OF COURSE!
AND OUR TARGET IS UCHIHA SASUKE!

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS--PART THREE
ASSISTANT NO. 3: IKEMOTO MIKIO

S.C.O.T. No. 3

PROFILE

- LIKES SNACK STICKS AND COOKIES, AND EATS NATTÔ BEAN PASTE EVERY DAY.
- ADORES COFFEE. AT THE OFFICE, HE'S THE ONE WHO POURS.
- MASTER TINKERER.
- SHARP DRESSER.
- TALLEST ONE IN THE OFFICE.
- YOUNGEST ONE IN THE OFFICE.

} WE'RE SICK WITH ENVY!

WORKS AS A "MOB," DRAWING CROWDS AND BACKGROUND FIGURES, ADDING THE WHITE TO SPEED LINES, HIGHLIGHTS, AND CHARACTERS' EYES, AND WHITING OUT ANY ART THAT GOES OUT OF THE PANEL AND INTO THE GUTTER, AS WELL AS PUTTING STARS IN THE NIGHT SKY, AND ADDING IN HALF-TONES.

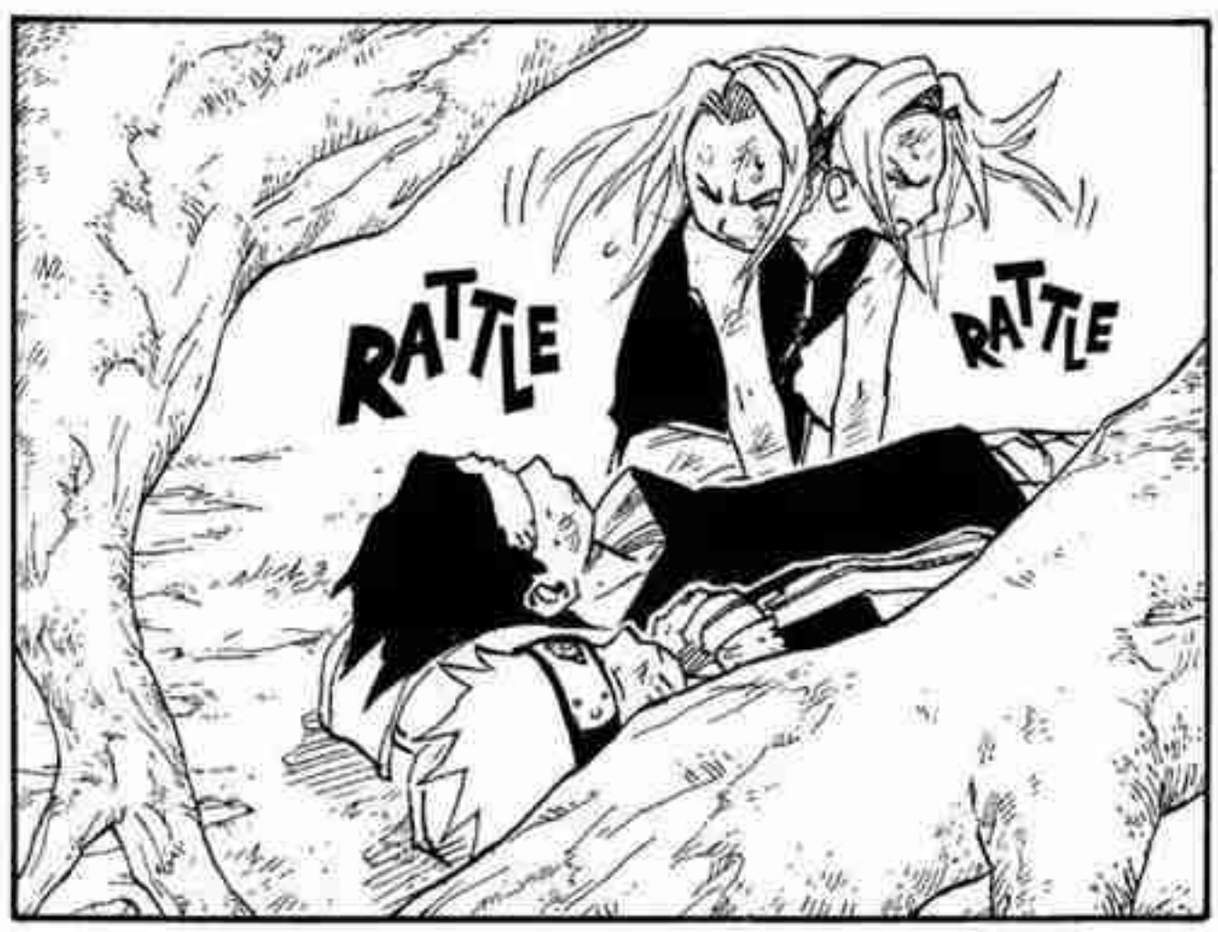
Number 51:

Beauty Is the Beast!!

PAT
GASP
GASP

SQSK

SPLASH
SPLASH


RATTLE
RATTLE

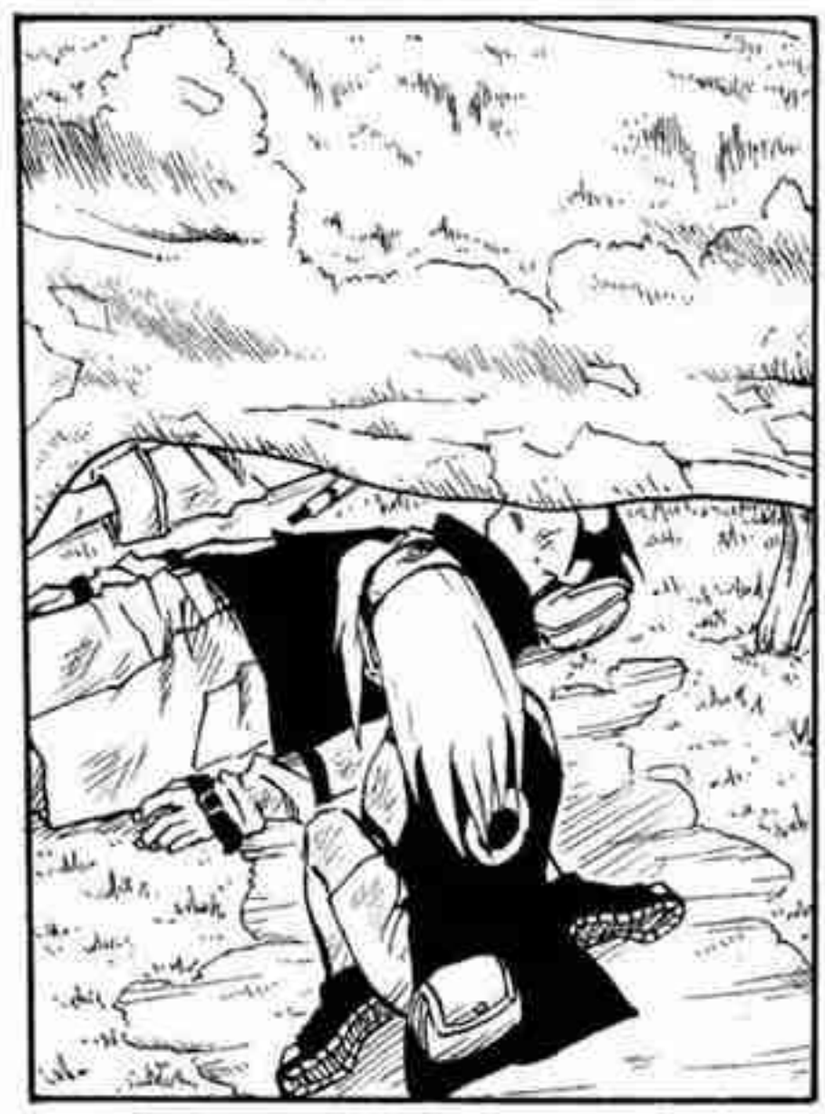
ZZZ

OH!
IT'S ALREADY DAWN?!

I CAN'T LET MYSELF SLEEP...
...

KLAC

!!
TAP
HUH?!



LUB DUB

LUB DUB

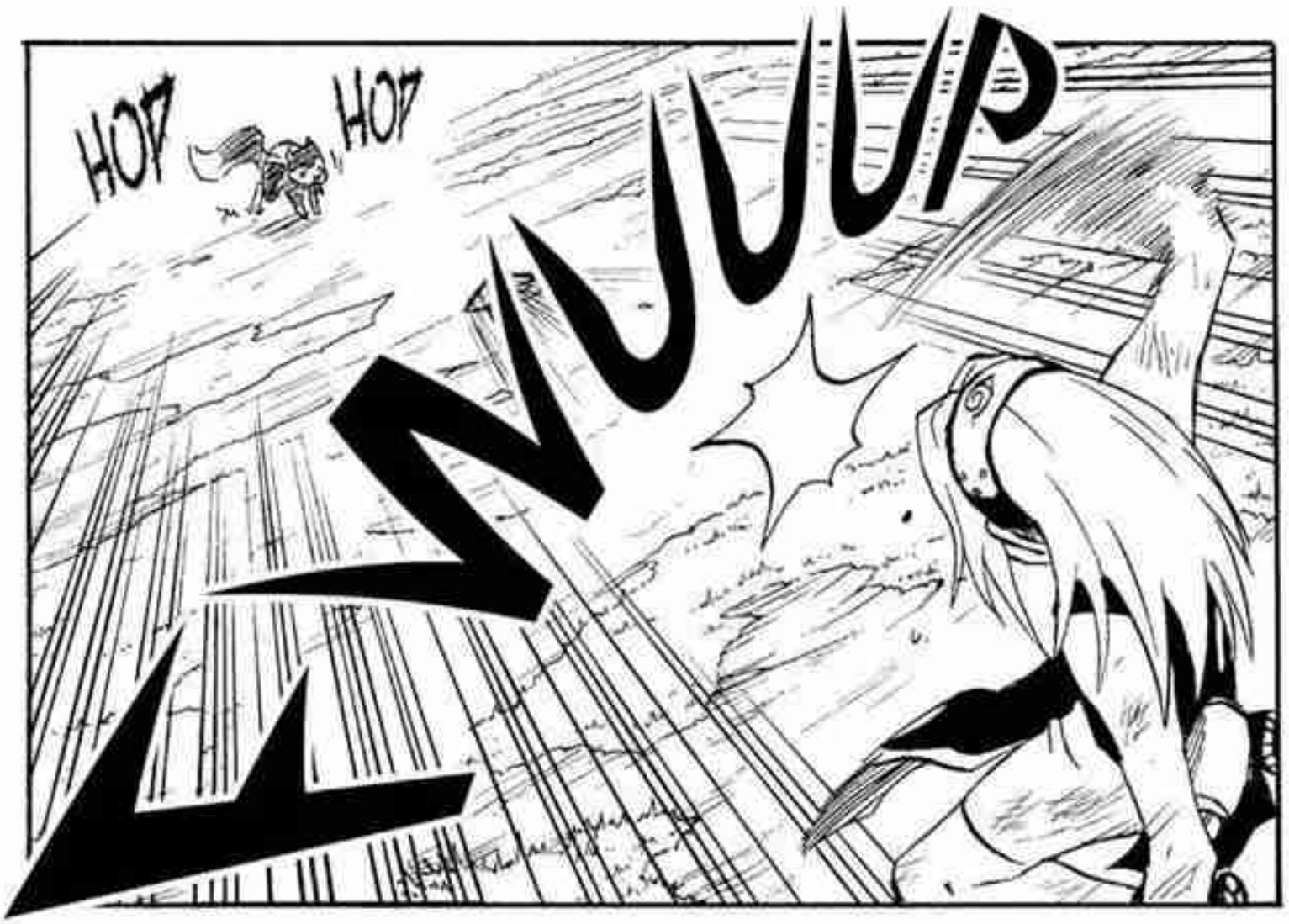
RATTLE
RATTLE

LUB DUB

A SQUIRREL ...?
!

CRUNCH

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, SCARING ME LIKE THAT?!
HOP


HOP
HOP
WUUP

HEY!
CLENCH

THAT WAS CLOSE. THAT WAS TOO CLOSE!
SCRAMBLE
SCRAMBLE

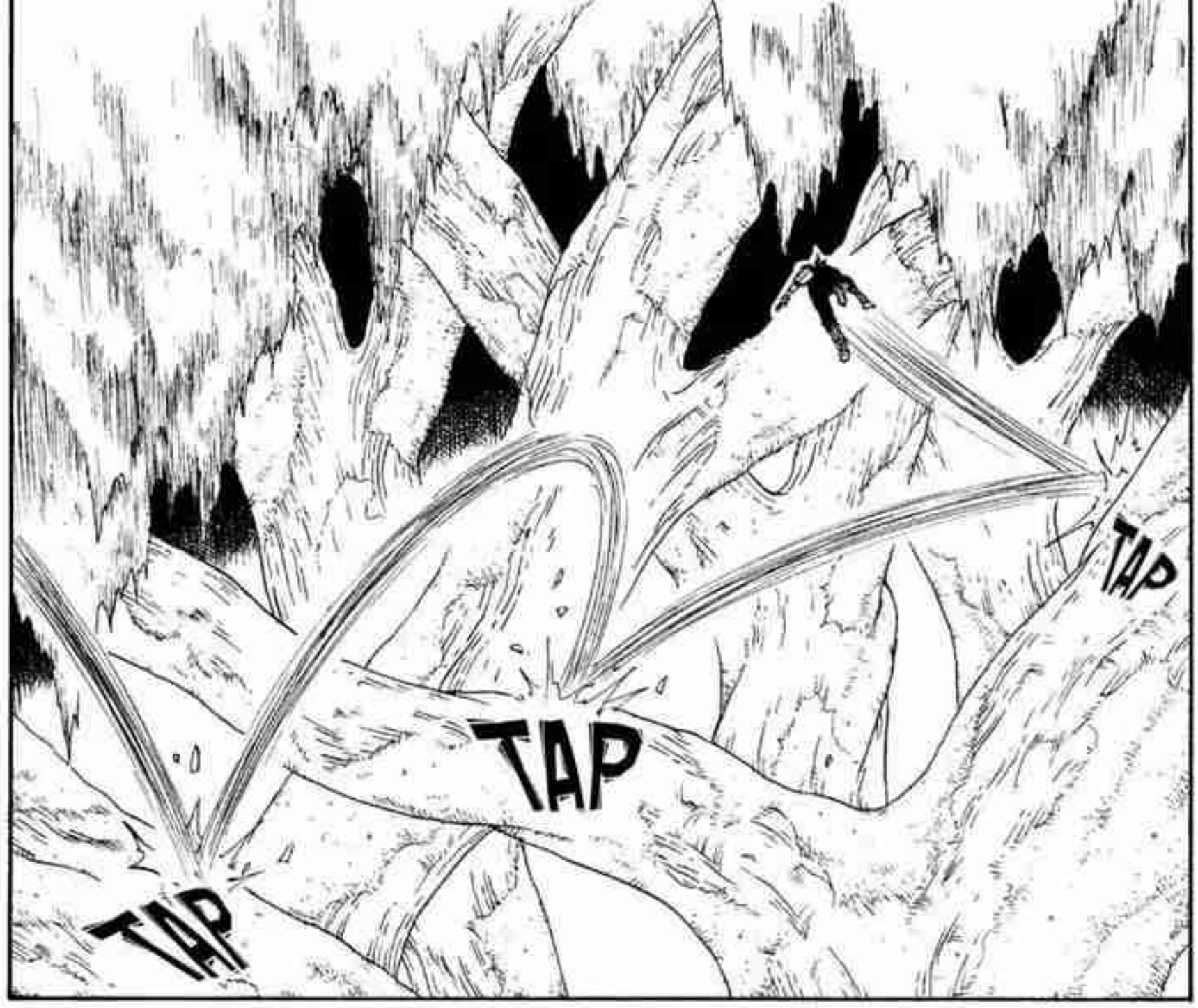
!!
WHIZZ

SHE'S PRETTY TIGHTLY WOUND.

I WONDER IF SHE NOTICED THE LETTER BOMB WE STUCK ON THE SQUIRREL!

NO...

THAT'S NOT IT...


TAP
TAP
TAP

TAP

FLUUP
POK

OOMMMM
KRAKLe

...

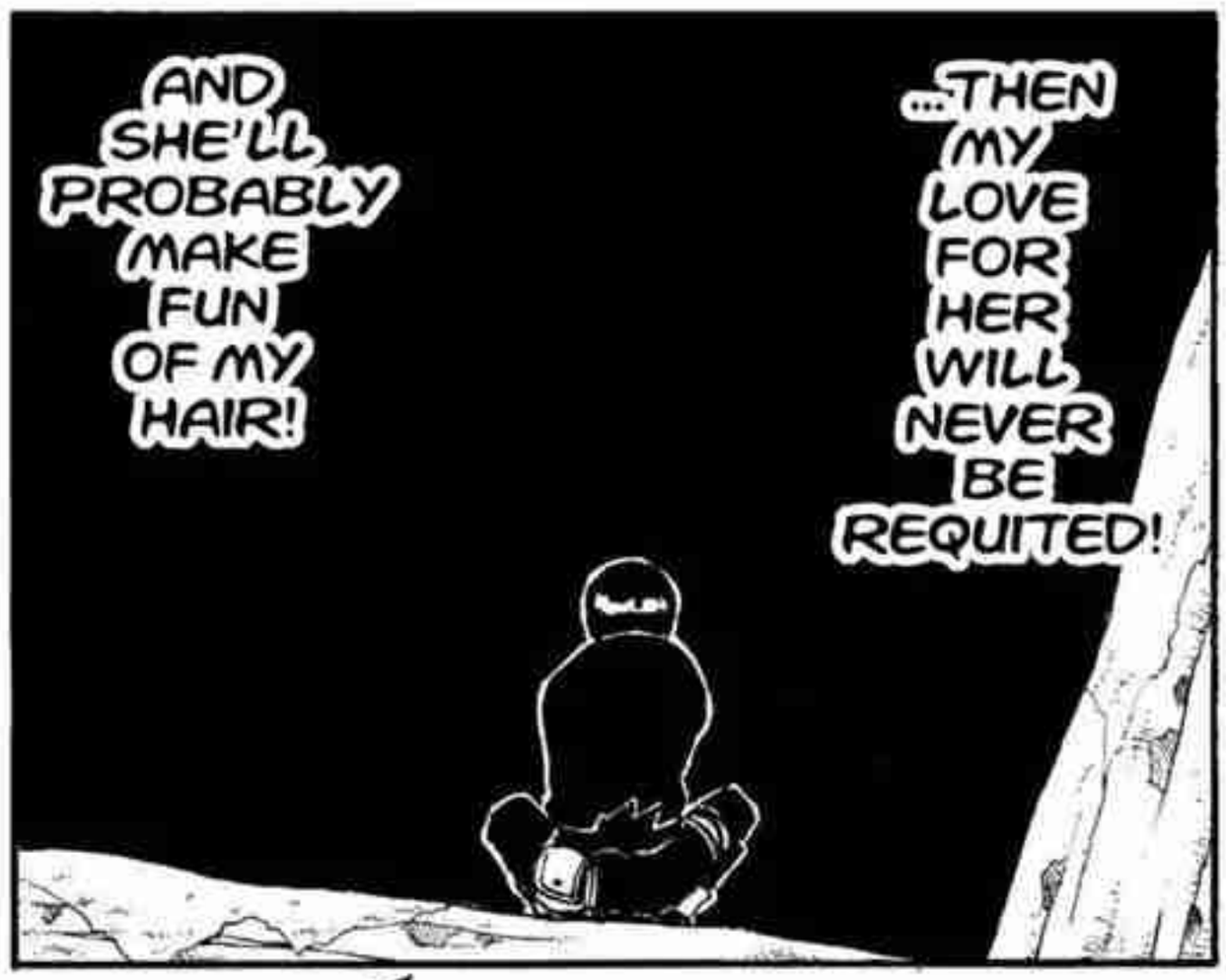
...
FLITTER
FLITTER

BUT IF I MISS EVEN ONE...

...THEN SAKURA WILL FALL IN LOVE WITH ME!!

...ALL 20 OF THESE LEAVES BEFORE ANY OF THEM HITS THE GROUND...

IF I CAN CATCH...



BAM
YANK
ARGH!
WHAM

SHF

IT'S...!!
!!

SHF
FLITTER

!!
JUST ONE MORE TRY...

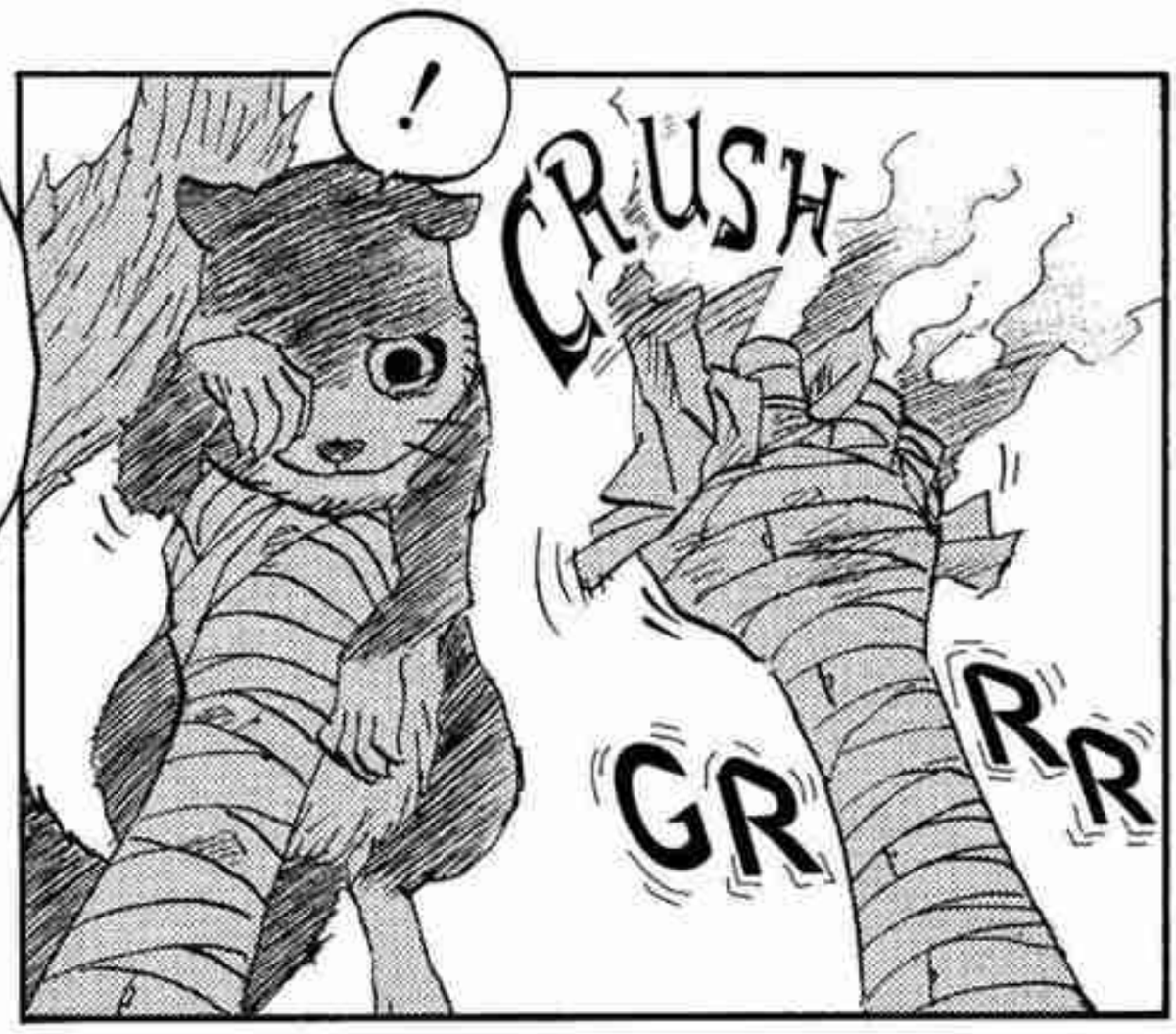
BOOOM

SCRAMBLE
SKREEE
SKREE
SIZZLE

SHRED
SKREE
JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
A LETTER BOMB... ON A VERY SHORT TIMER.

PUFF
PUFF

WHO WOULD DO SOMETHING SO CRUEL?!


!
CRUSH
GRRR

SHF

HOW'D HE SPOT US WHEN WE HID SO FAST?!

COME OUT OF HIDING... UNLESS YOU'RE A COWARD.

GRRR

GRRR

GRRR

IT MAKES ME SO MAD!!

WHY? WHY DIDN'T HE FIND ME SEXY? WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?!

I TRIED TO TELL YOU HE WOULDN'T GO FOR IT!

...

GET LOST.

SKF SKF

H-HOW COULD HE KNOW THAT... UNLESS HE DOES HAVE EYES IN THE BACK OF HIS HEAD?!

HEH HEH

O-OF COURSE NOT!

DOES THAT FIST YOU'RE SHAKING IN MY DIRECTION...

...MEAN YOU WANT TO FIGHT ME?

GLINX

HEY...

RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

O-OKAY!

HMPH... THEY'RE LIKE COCK-ROACHES.

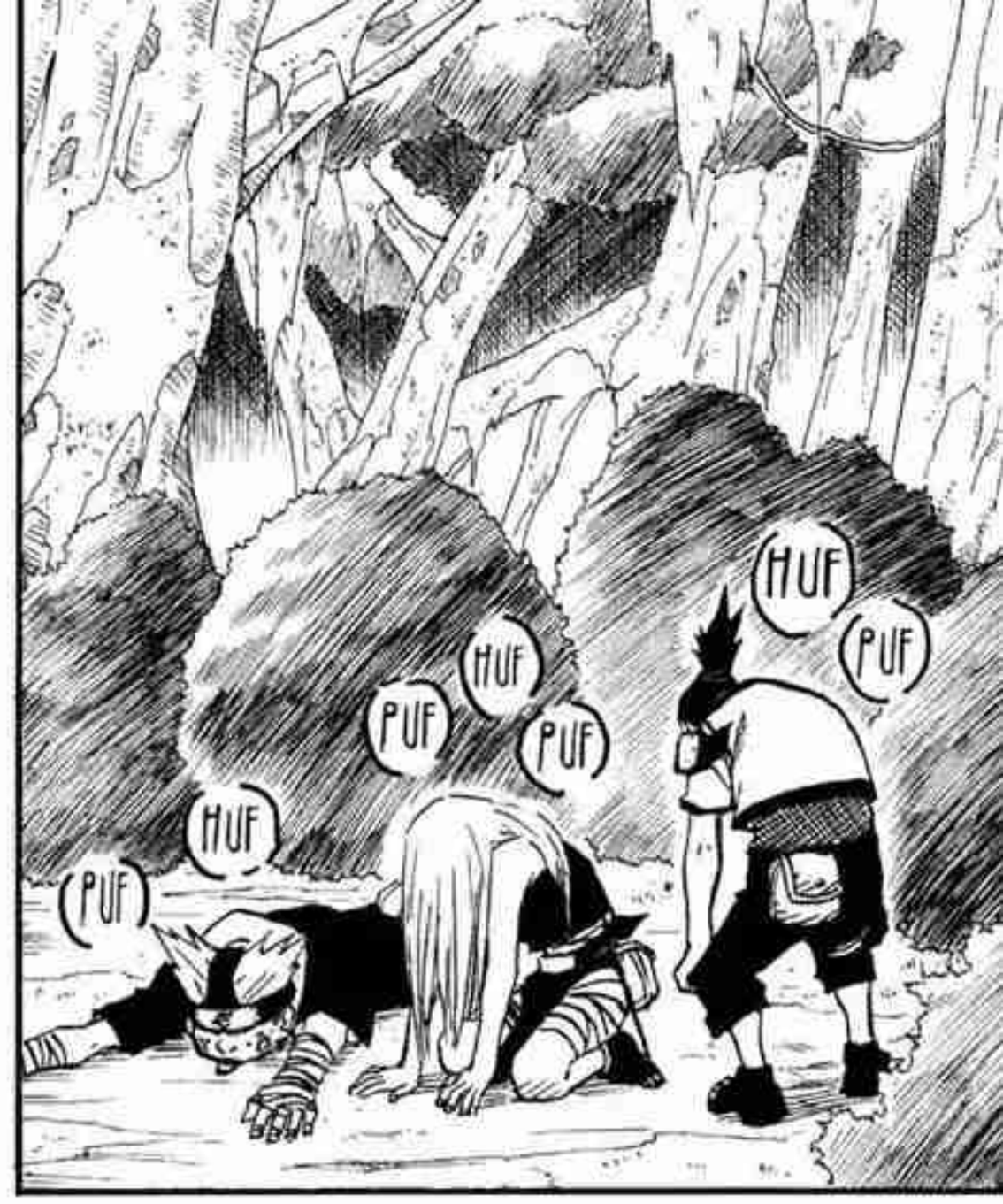
I WOULDN'T DEMEAN MYSELF BY TAKING A SCROLL FROM LOSERS LIKE YOU.

IT WOULD MAKE ME A LAUGHING-STOCK.

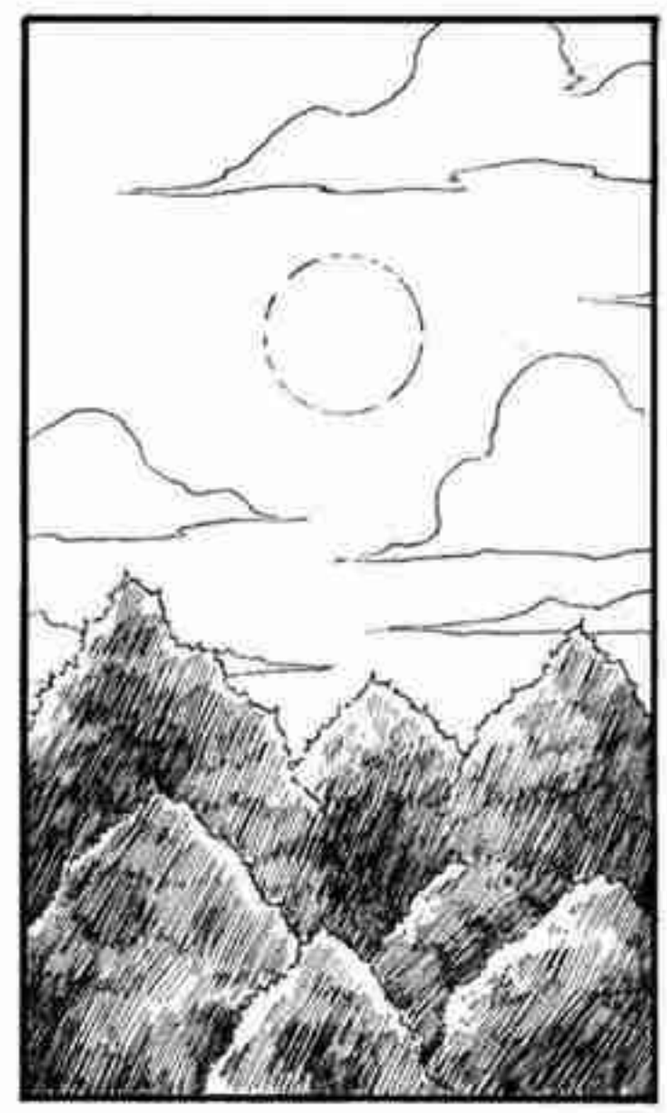
THEN GET LOST!

GRRRR

I DOUBT WE'LL FIND ANYONE WEAKER THAN US!
LET'S GO SEE IF WE CAN PICK OFF SOME WEAKLINGS!
HA HA HA HA
YANK
HOP


HUF
PUF
HUF
PUF
PUF
HUF
PUF

SHIVER

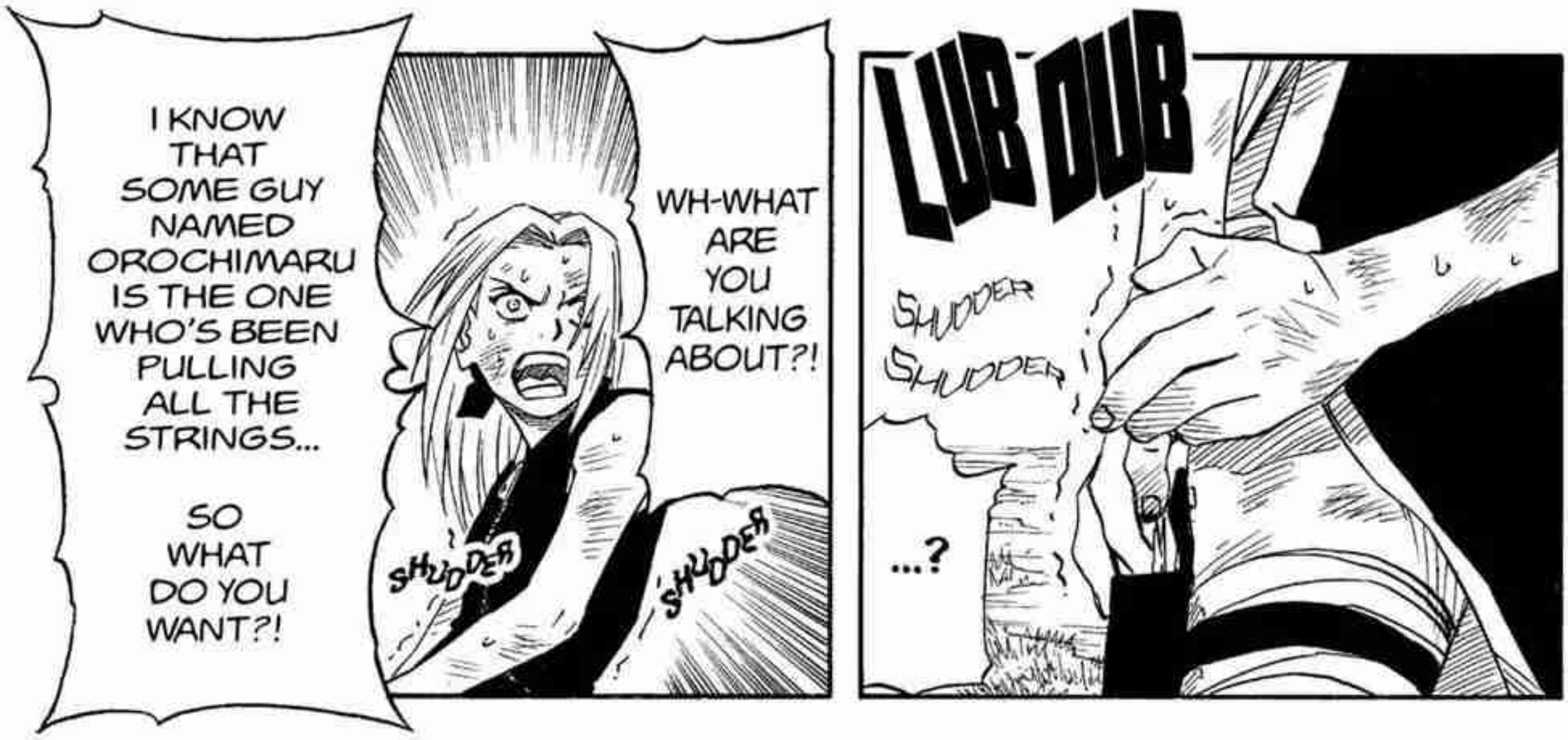


!!
SHHF
TH-THEY'RE...!

!!
GASP
HEH HEH... YOU'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT STANDING GUARD, EH?
DUB

AS OF NOW, YOU'RE OFF DUTY. JUST WAKE SASUKE FOR US.

THE THREE OF US WANT TO TAKE HIM ON.

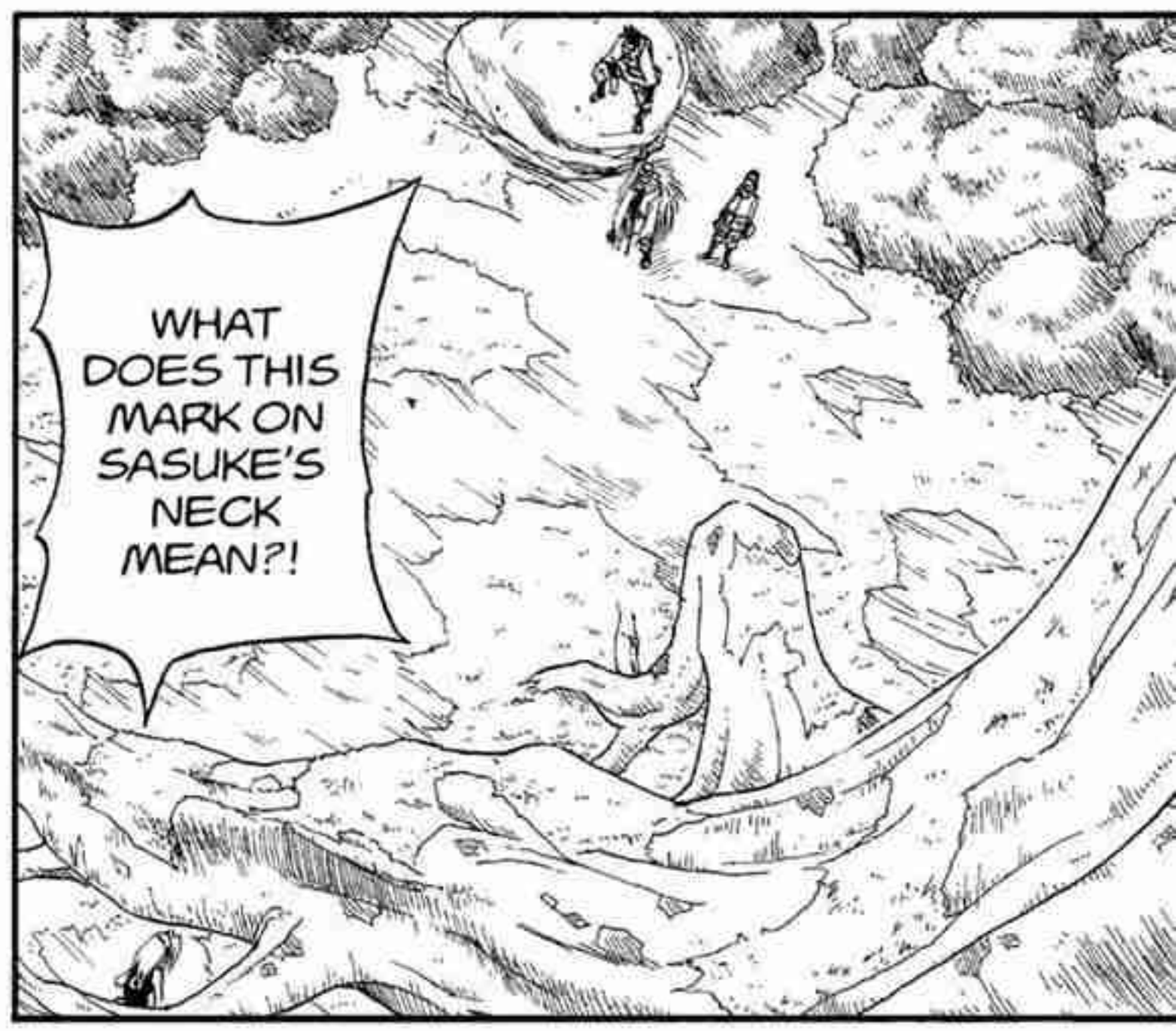


?!

?!

?!

GET OUT OF HERE! GO!!
WITH SASUKE IN THIS CONDITION... NOW YOU WANT TO FIGHT HIM?!


WHAT DOES THIS MARK ON SASUKE'S NECK MEAN?!

WHATEVER... I CAN'T WALK AWAY AFTER HEARING THAT!
I'LL DESTROY YOU, GIRL... AND YOUR LITTLE SASUKE, TOO!

...?

...
HMM...
I WONDER WHAT OROCHIMARU'S UP TO?!

WAIT, ZAKU!

WAIT? WHY?

...

FRESHLY TURNED STONES, EXPOSED SOIL...

TAK TAK

GRASS IN A PLACE IT WOULD NEVER GROW...

SHF

IT'S OBVIOUS...

...

LUBDUB

GRR...

BUT WHAT'S THE POINT OF LAYING THEM IF YOU LEAVE EVIDENCE THAT WARNS YOUR PREY?

SOMEONE'S BEEN SETTING BOOBY TRAPS...

RRRIP

...SO LET'S ELIMINATE HER FIRST.
SO... THE PERSON WHO THREW THE KUNAI KNIFE WAS TRYING TO STOP THE SQUIRREL FROM SPRINGING THE TRAP?
SHF
IT'S AMATEURISH!
WELL, THE GIRL IS NO USE TO US...

SHF

FPP
FPP
TAK
!!

SHLUK

NOOOO!
THE TRAP WAS ABOVE US ALL ALONG!

KRAK-KRAK-KRAK
VOOOOM
A LOG?!

TAP
VERY FUNNY!!
POK
POK
POK
POK
BLA
AM
IT'S AN INSULT BEING UNDER-ESTIMATED BY SLACKERS LIKE YOU!
STOP DOGGING IT AND START WORKING AT IT!
TO BE HONEST... YOU KNOW YOU'RE A COMPLETE NO-TALENT, DON'T YOU?
!!
HUH?!

KONOHA
HURRICANE
TECHNIQUE!!!
WAM WAM WAM

YIKES
TAP
?!
?!
ACK!
SHF
SHF
LOOK AT WHO'S TALKING...!
...
WHOA... IS THAT THE GUY WHO...?
TRY TAKING YOUR OWN ADVICE!!
...ROCK LEE!
KONOHA'S HANDSOME BLUE BEAST...
WH-WHO ARE YOU...?!

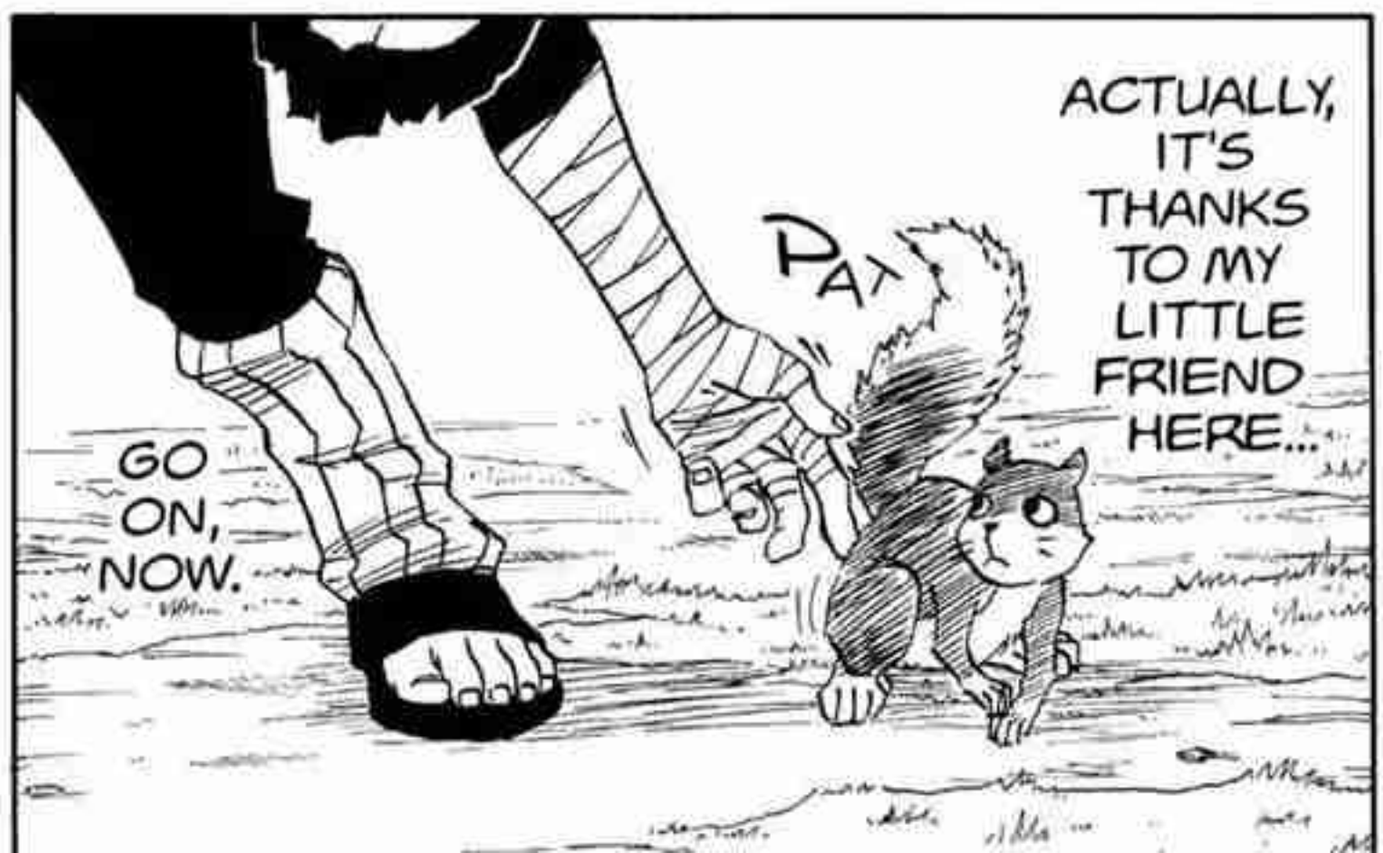
Number 52:

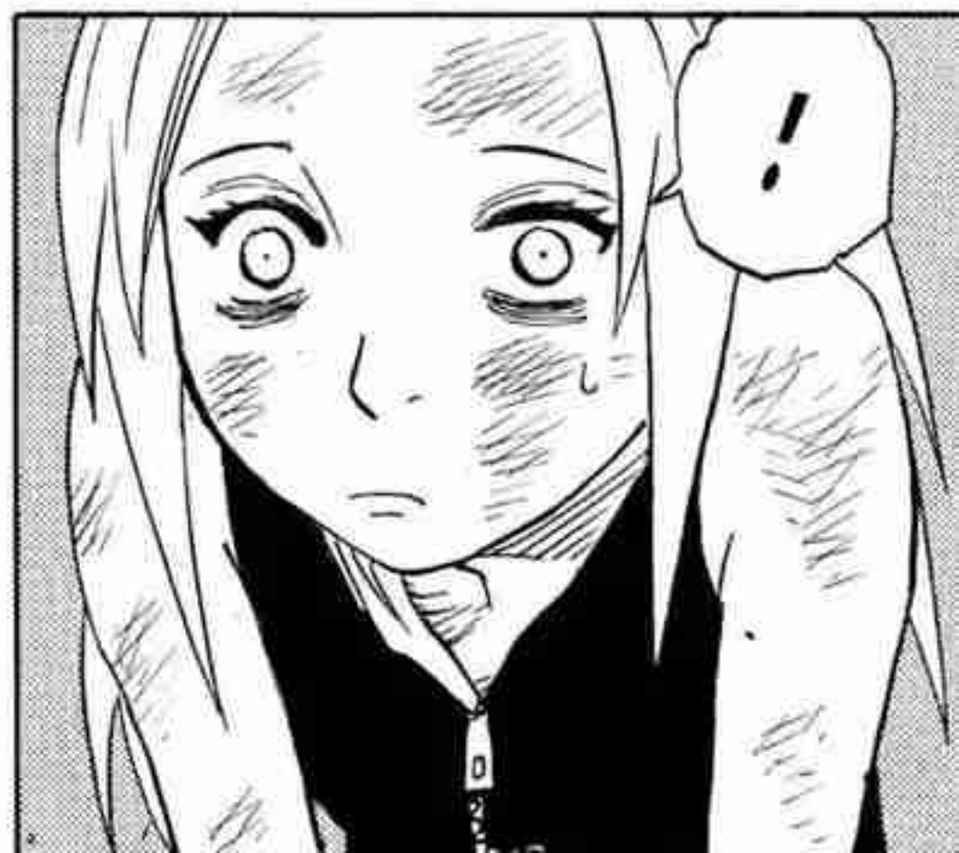
The Principles of Use!!

...BECAUSE YOU NEEDED ME. AND I ALWAYS WILL!

...!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?

I CAME...

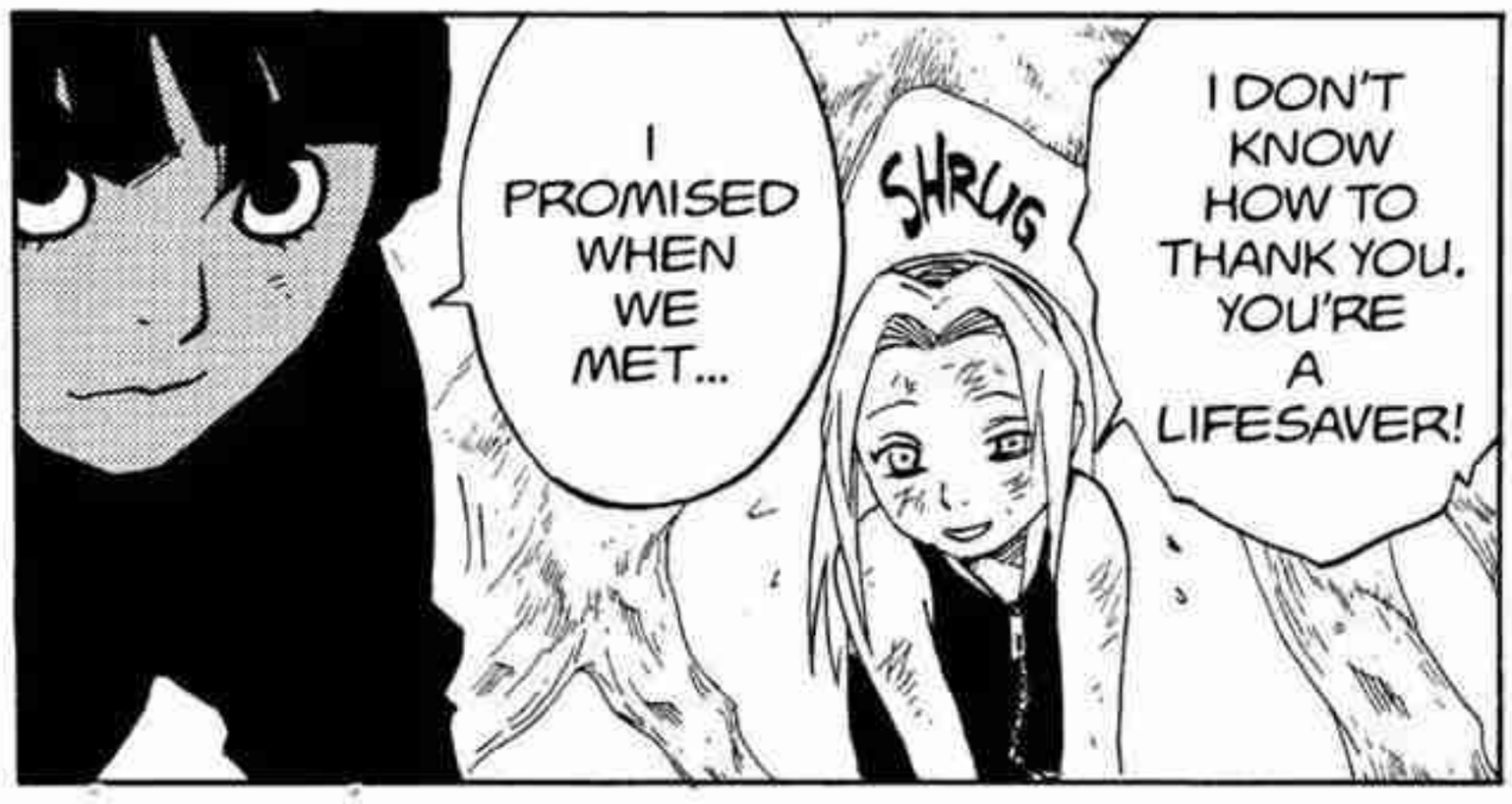

ACTUALLY, IT'S THANKS TO MY LITTLE FRIEND HERE...
PAT
GO ON, NOW.


!

SSSSS
TAK

...

HUH?
...


I PROMISED WHEN WE MET...
SHRUG
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU. YOU'RE A LIFESAVER!

...TO PROTECT YOU... UNTIL DEATH DO US PART!

...
I GET IT, MASTER GUY!
YES! I UNDER-STAND!
KRUNCH

I'LL PROTECT YOU WITH MY LIFE!
...!
GLEAM

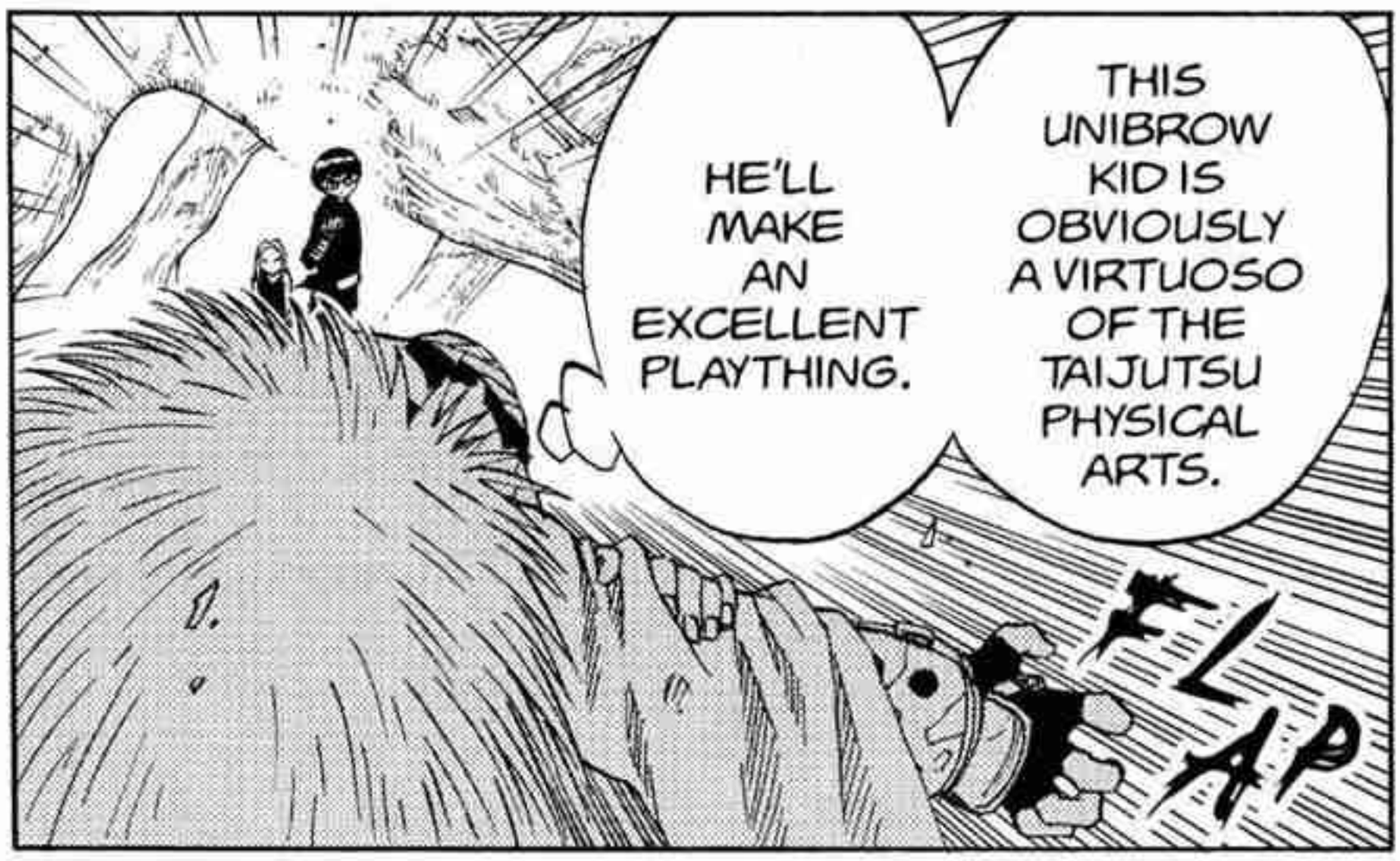
ZAKU... LITTLE SASUKE IS ALL YOURS!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
WHRRR
POK

SHF

...SAKURA DOESN'T HAVE ANY MORE FIGHT LEFT IN HER, EITHER.
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...
BLINK
WHRRR
SHF

THEY'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD!
TAK

SHF
!!!


HE'LL MAKE AN EXCELLENT PLAYTHING.
THIS UNIBROW KID IS OBVIOUSLY A VIRTUOSO OF THE TAIJUTSU PHYSICAL ARTS.
FLAP

SHF
!!
FOOM

THAM

?!!
POW

SUPER

!!

HMF!
...

...SO STRONG!!
HE'S...

!!
I'VE SEEN YOU USE THESE MOVES BEFORE.

SO, I'D BE WASTING MY TIME DUCKING AS THOUGH YOUR ATTACKS WERE REAL.
THIS IS SOME KIND OF ILLUSION, RIGHT?!

IT'S A GAMBLE, BUT IF I TAKE THEM DOWN ONE AT A TIME...

MY STRENGTH SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO BEAT THEM!

BUT THERE'S THREE OF THEM AND ONE OF ME, SO THEY HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.

HOW CAN WE PICK OFF THE WEAK WHEN WE CAN'T FIND ANY WEAKLINGS?!

GAAAAAH!

RUSTLE RUSTLE

...BUT THEY'RE TEAMED UP WITH SASUKE-- THE BEST OF THE BEST!

NARUTO AND SAKURA ARE TOTAL LOSERS...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YOU IDIOT?!

...BESIDES NARUTO'S TEAM, OF COURSE!

WELL ...

...

SMORT

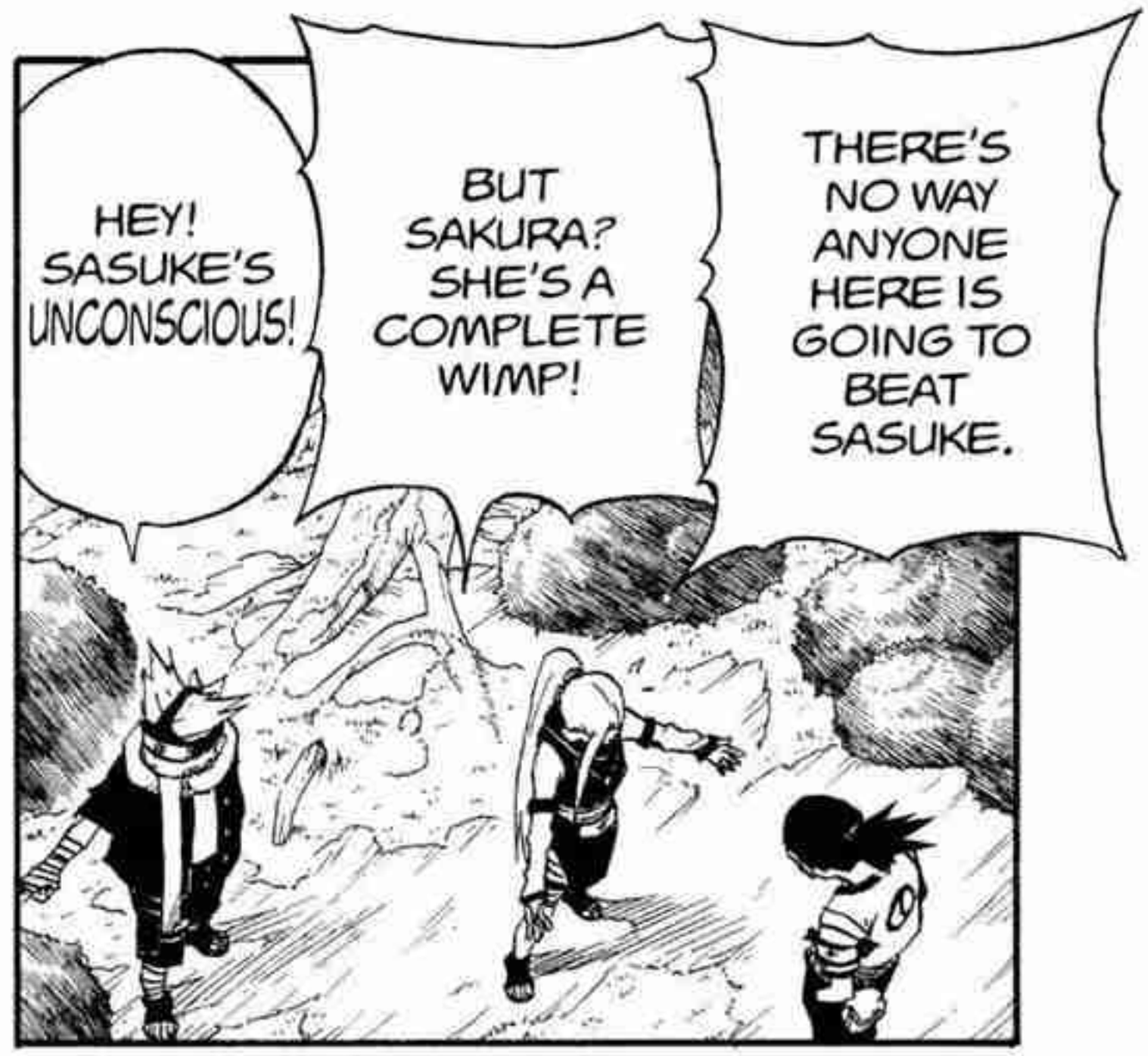
WHAT?!

GRAPPA
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT, SORRY FOR DISSING YOUR IDOL!

NOW, WHY IS THAT?
MAYBE YOUR PRECIOUS SASUKE IS BETTER IN THEORY THAN HE IS IN PRACTICE!

...THAT GIRL IS A TOTAL PAIN. EVERY TIME I OPEN MY MOUTH ABOUT SASUKE, SHE GOES OFF ON ME!

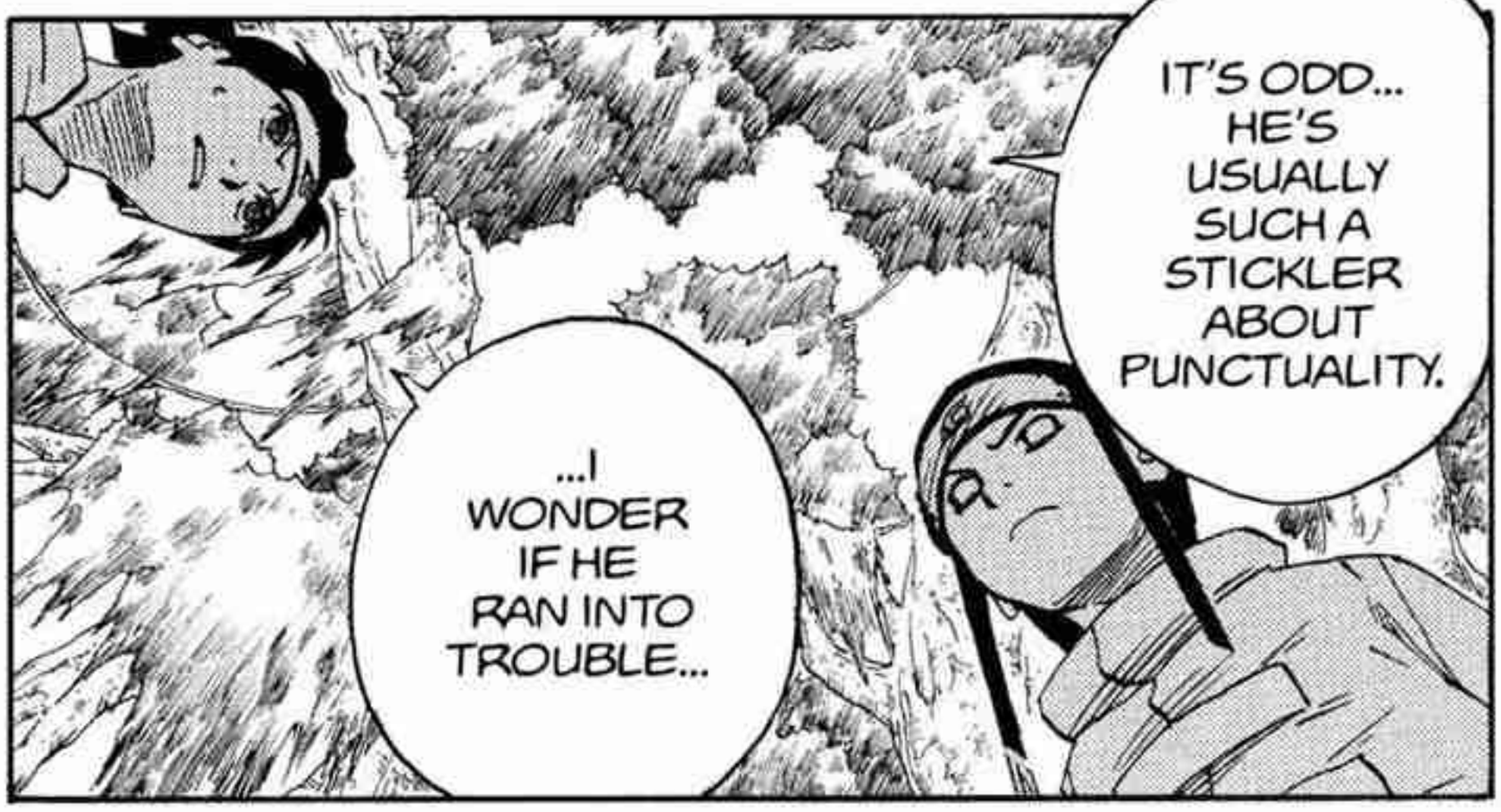
AND SAKURA'S DEFENDING HIM.
!!
GRRR


HEY! SASUKE'S UNCONSCIOUS!
BUT SAKURA? SHE'S A COMPLETE WIMP!
THERE'S NO WAY ANYONE HERE IS GOING TO BEAT SASUKE.

OH!
?!

...
IT'S NOT LIKE LEE TO KEEP US WAITING!
TAP
TAP

NOT HIM!


IT'S ODD... HE'S USUALLY SUCH A STICKLER ABOUT PUNCTUALITY.
...I WONDER IF HE RAN INTO TROUBLE...

RIGHT!
TAK TAK

BUT WE SHOULD STILL GO LOOK FOR HIM.

NO WAY.

I FINALLY...
...GOT THE HANG OF IT!!
HUF
HUF
HUF
I DID IT!

HUF
HUF
DON'T GO OVERBOARD!
WHOA

...ONLY LEE WAS ABLE TO MASTER THIS TECHNIQUE, EH?
ULTI-MATE-LY...

YIKES...

HUF
HUF
HUF

I REALLY, TRULY DID IT!!

I DID IT! ME!!

I DID IT!!

WOO-HOO!!!

ALL RIGHT, LEE...

STAGGER

HEY...

PLEASE SHARE YOUR WISDOM!

YES, SIR... WHAT IS IT?!

NOW THAT I'VE GOT YOUR ATTENTION, LEARN THIS WELL!

HUF

HUF

STAB

PAW

YAAAH!

...

...IT WILL BE CLASSIFIED AS ONE OF THE FORBIDDEN ARTS!

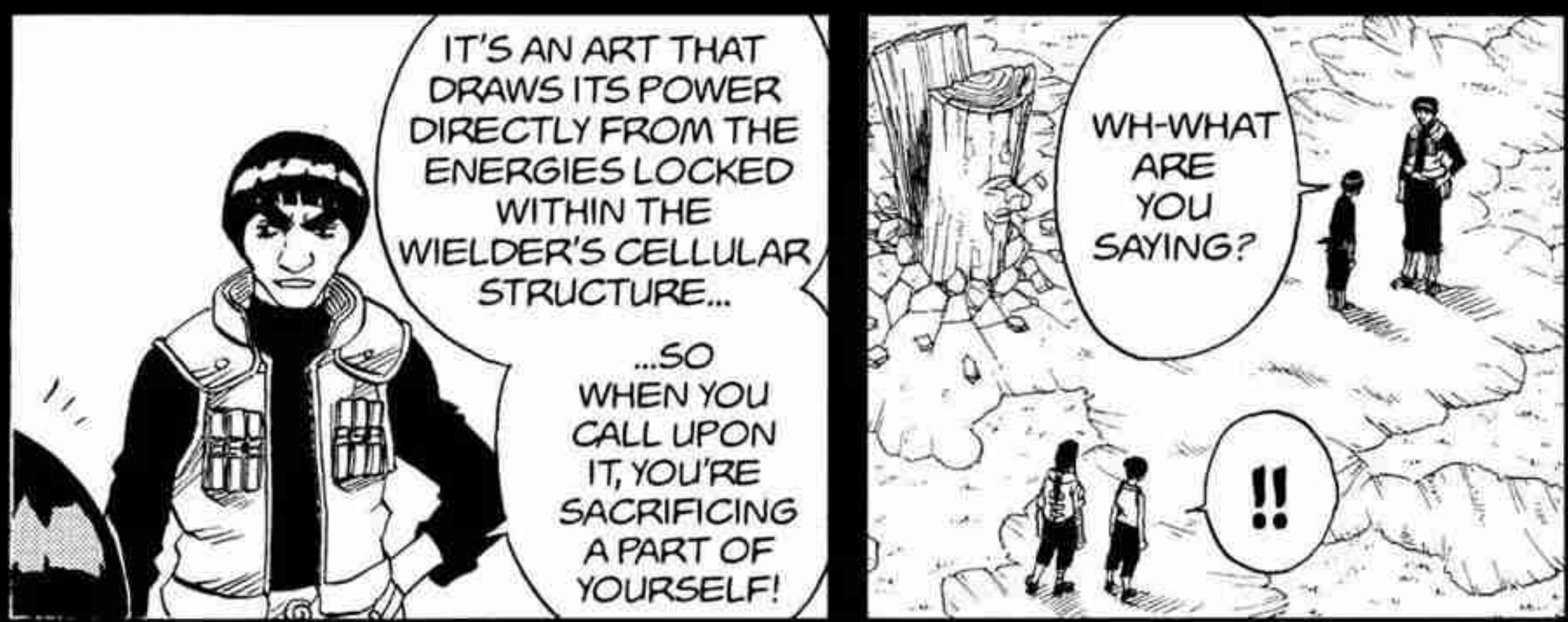
NOW THAT YOU'VE MASTERED THE *LOTUS* TECHNIQUE...

...

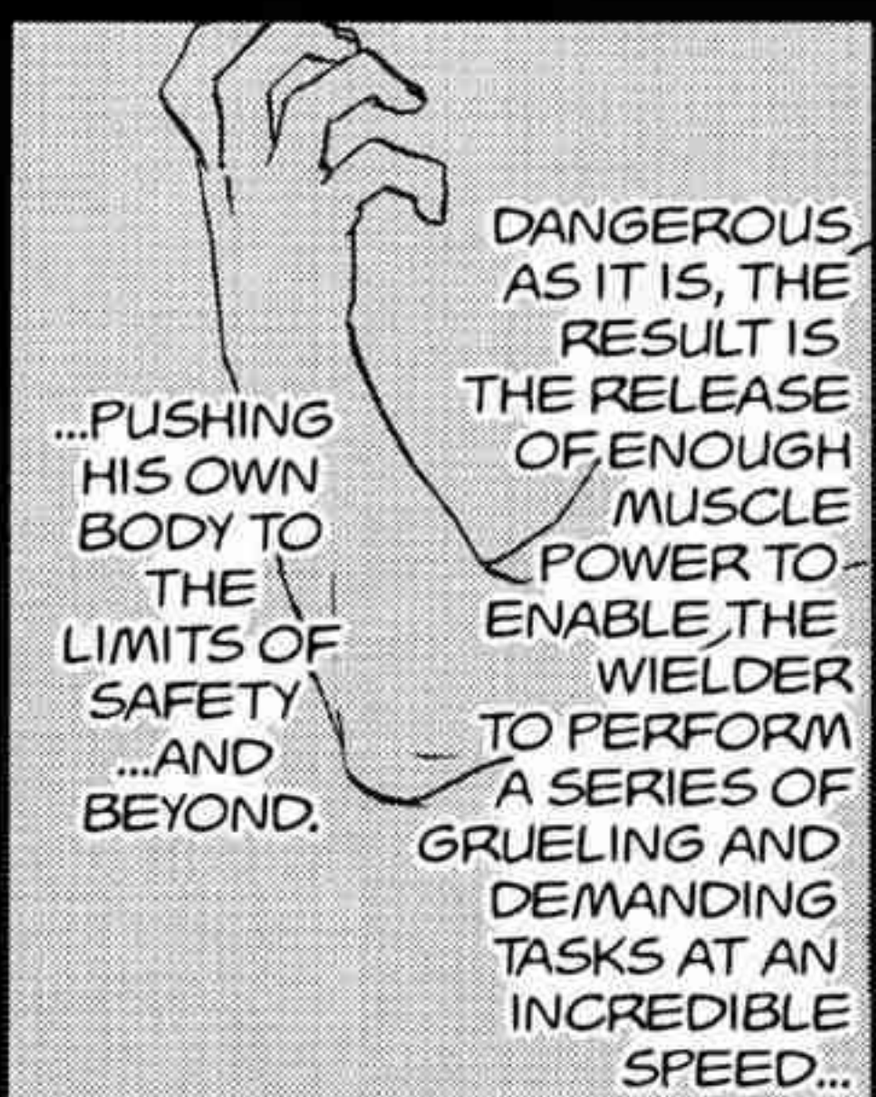
...

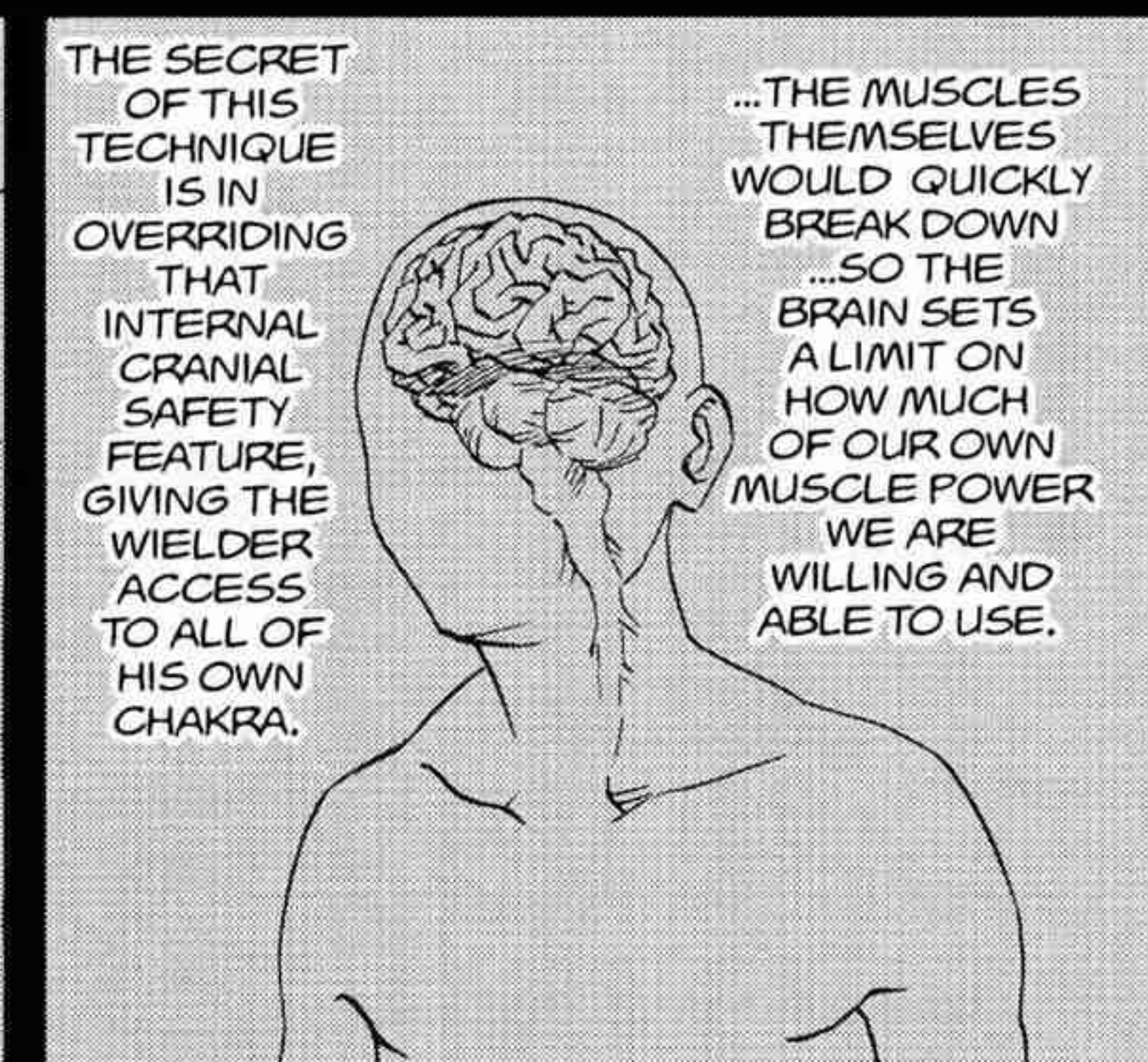
HUH?!

?!


IT'S AN ART THAT DRAWS ITS POWER DIRECTLY FROM THE ENERGIES LOCKED WITHIN THE WIELDER'S CELLULAR STRUCTURE...
...SO WHEN YOU CALL UPON IT, YOU'RE SACRIFICING A PART OF YOURSELF!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
!!

IF ANYONE WERE TO EMPLOY ANYTHING EVEN CLOSE TO 100% OF THE STRENGTH IN HIS MUSCLES...
NORMALLY, HUMAN BEINGS UTILIZE A MERE 20% OF THEIR OWN MUSCULAR ENERGY.


DANGEROUS AS IT IS, THE RESULT IS THE RELEASE OF ENOUGH MUSCLE POWER TO ENABLE THE WIELDER TO PERFORM A SERIES OF GRUELING AND DEMANDING TASKS AT AN INCREDIBLE SPEED...
...PUSHING HIS OWN BODY TO THE LIMITS OF SAFETY ...AND BEYOND.


THE SECRET OF THIS TECHNIQUE IS IN OVERRIDING THAT INTERNAL CRANIAL SAFETY FEATURE, GIVING THE WIELDER ACCESS TO ALL OF HIS OWN CHAKRA.
...THE MUSCLES THEMSELVES WOULD QUICKLY BREAK DOWN ...SO THE BRAIN SETS A LIMIT ON HOW MUCH OF OUR OWN MUSCLE POWER WE ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO USE.

THUS, THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH YOU MAY EMPLOY THIS TECHNIQUE...
...ARE SEVERELY LIMITED.
LISTEN CLOSELY, AND INSTRUCT YOUR MUSCLES...
...LIKE SO...
SNAP
...
AND ...WHEN IS IT PER-MISSIBLE?
HUF
!
HUF
TAK
HAH!
MASTER GUY... THE TIME HAS SURELY COME FOR ME TO USE THE FORBIDDEN SKILL YOU TAUGHT ME...
...AND NOT HOLD BACK!

I'M DEFENDING THE LIFE OF SOMEONE WHO MEANS THE WORLD TO ME!

!! ROAR

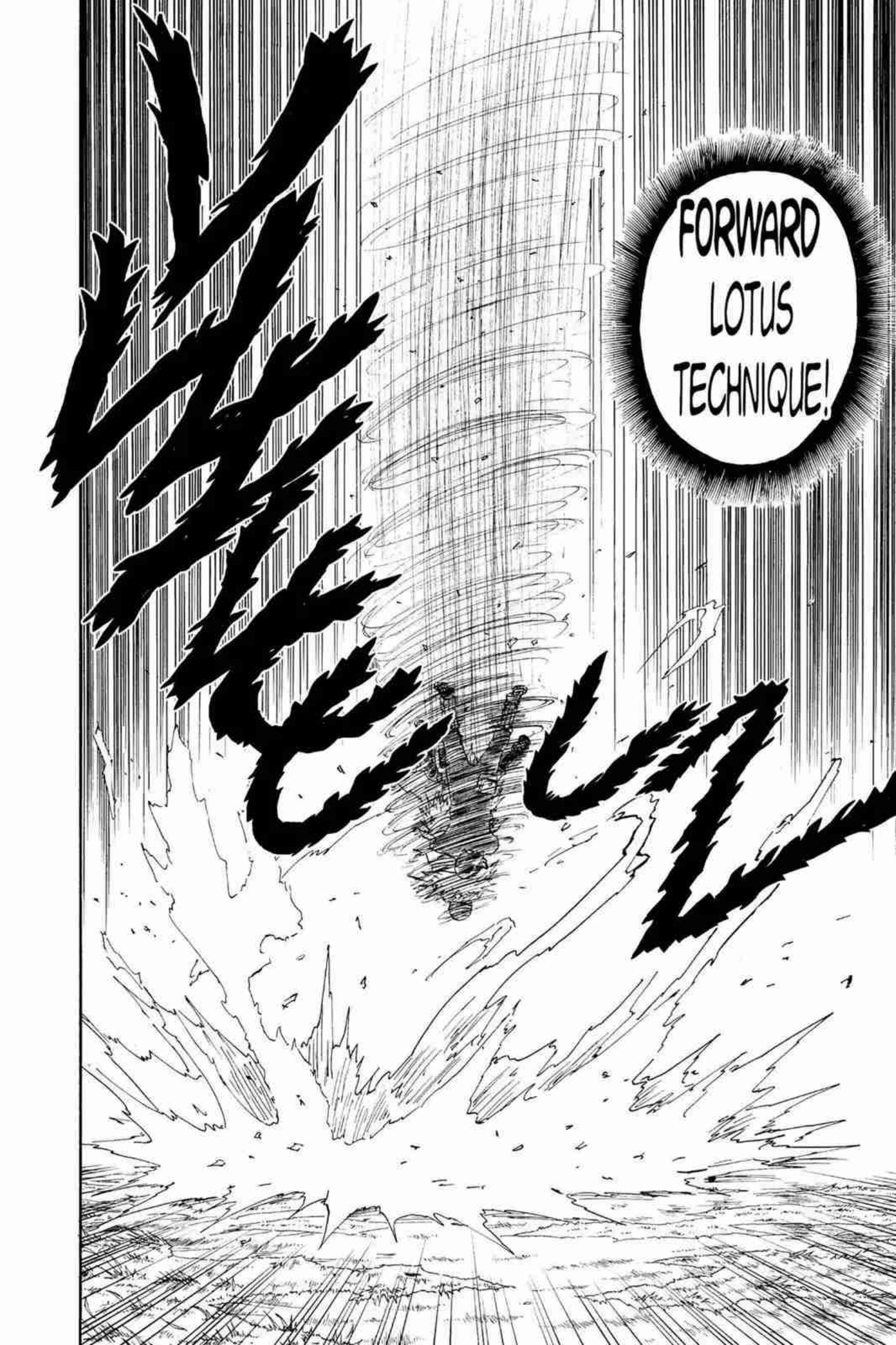
TAK

WHERE'D HE GO?!

!!

ZZZ

SLLIP
I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET!
FLZAPPP
YANK
VVN
OH, CRUD!
HE'S WIDE OPEN... CAN'T MAKE A MOVE TO DEFEND HIMSELF!!
FWUP
FWP
TAKE THIS!
KRUNCH
AAAG!!


FORWARD LOTUS TECHNIQUE!

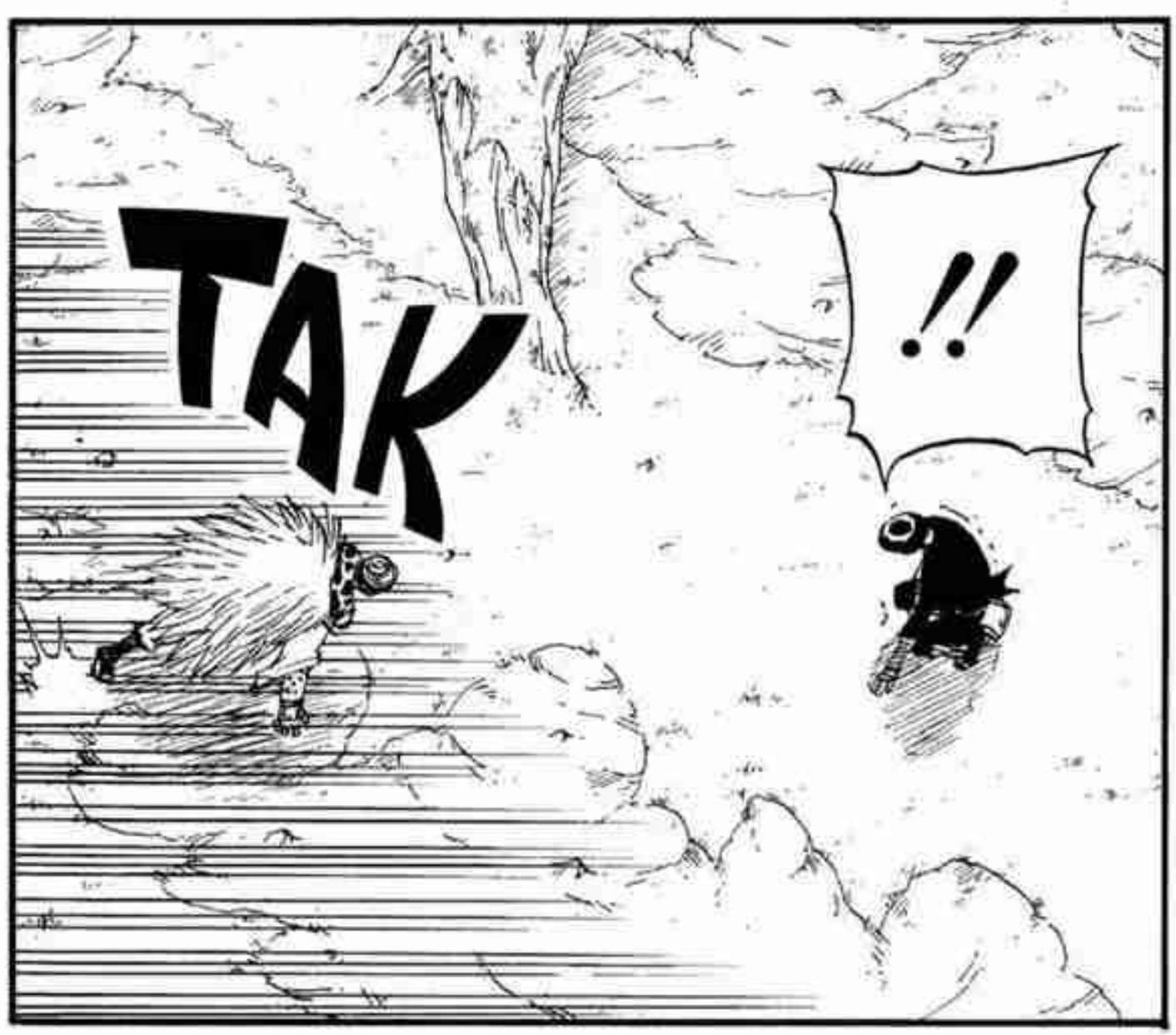
HOP

BAM

I MANAGED TO LAND ON A PILLOW OF SOIL ... AND IT STILL ALMOST WIPED ME OUT!
...WHAT A TERRIFYING TECHNIQUE...
NO WAY!
!!
RATTLE RATTLE

SHHF
OOF...
SLUMP

FWIUP
BUT NOW... IT'S MY TURN...


TAK
!!

OH... THIS IS NOT GOOD...
HUF
THAT LAST MOVE I DID JUST TOASTED ME. I'VE GOT NOTHING!
HUF

SWOOP
HOP

YOUR MOVES MAY BE FAST...

!!

SHUDDER
!!

SLUMP
UHHN...!

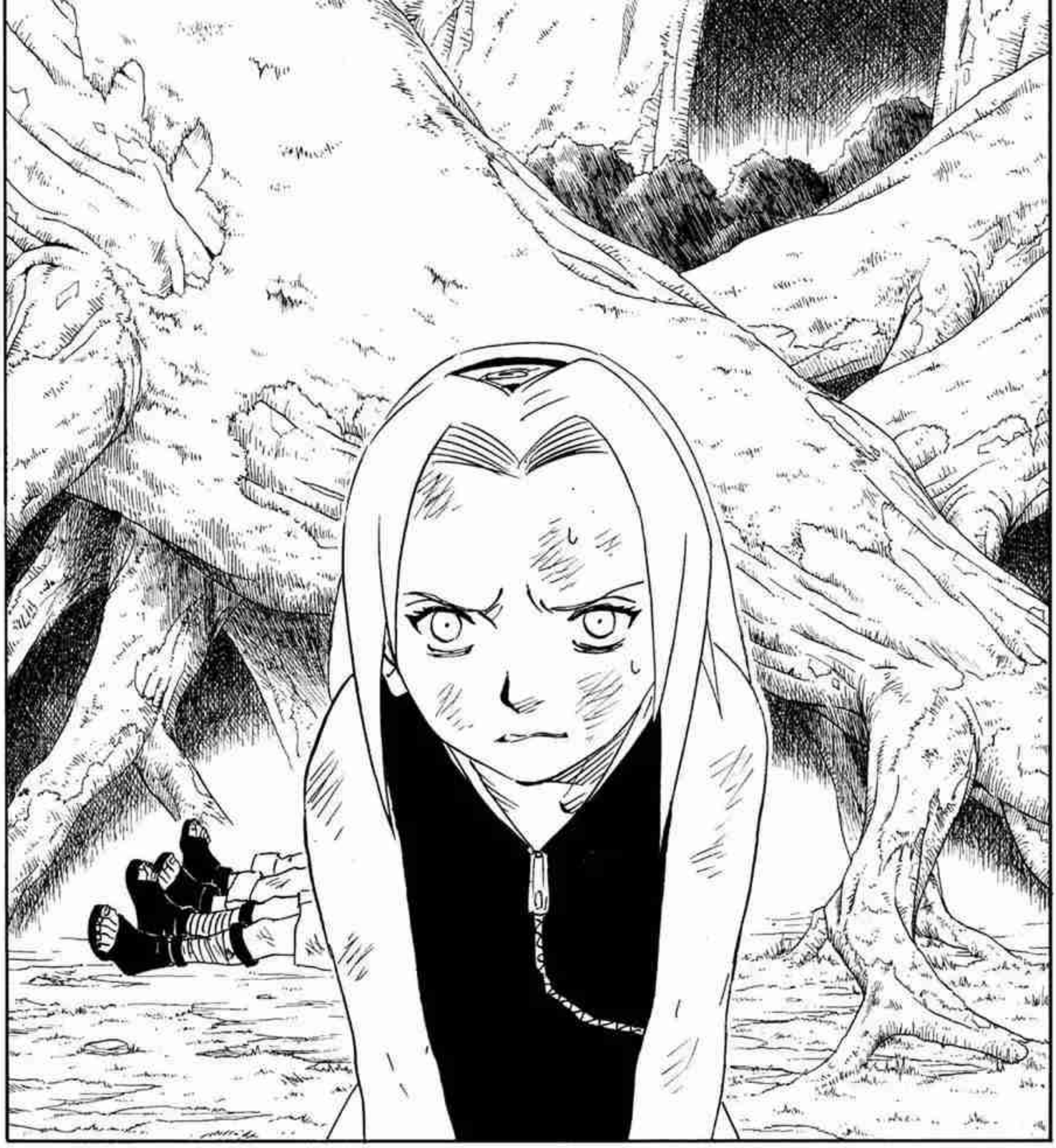
AND MUSCLES ALONE CAN'T BREAK DOWN...
...THIS WALL OF SOUND!
...BUT OURS ARE SUPER-SONIC!

MEET KISHIMOTO MASASHI'S ASSISTANTS
PART FOUR
ASSISTANT NO. 4: KAWAHARA TAKEMI

PROFILE

- A TOTAL PERVERT
- BLABBERMOUTH
- A NATIVE OF KANSAI WITH A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR. (HIS OLDER BROTHER IS ALSO QUITE A JOKER. I'VE FALLEN FOR HIS PRANKS AT LEAST TWICE.)
- LOVES AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN-TYPE MUSIC.
- A TOYS"R"US KID AND A STAR CHILD.
- A REAL RAY OF SUNSHINE, HE BRIGHTENS UP THE MOOD IN THE OFFICE.

IN TERMS OF JOBS, HE'S AN ALL-AROUND MASTER OF ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.



Number 53:

Sakura's Decision!!

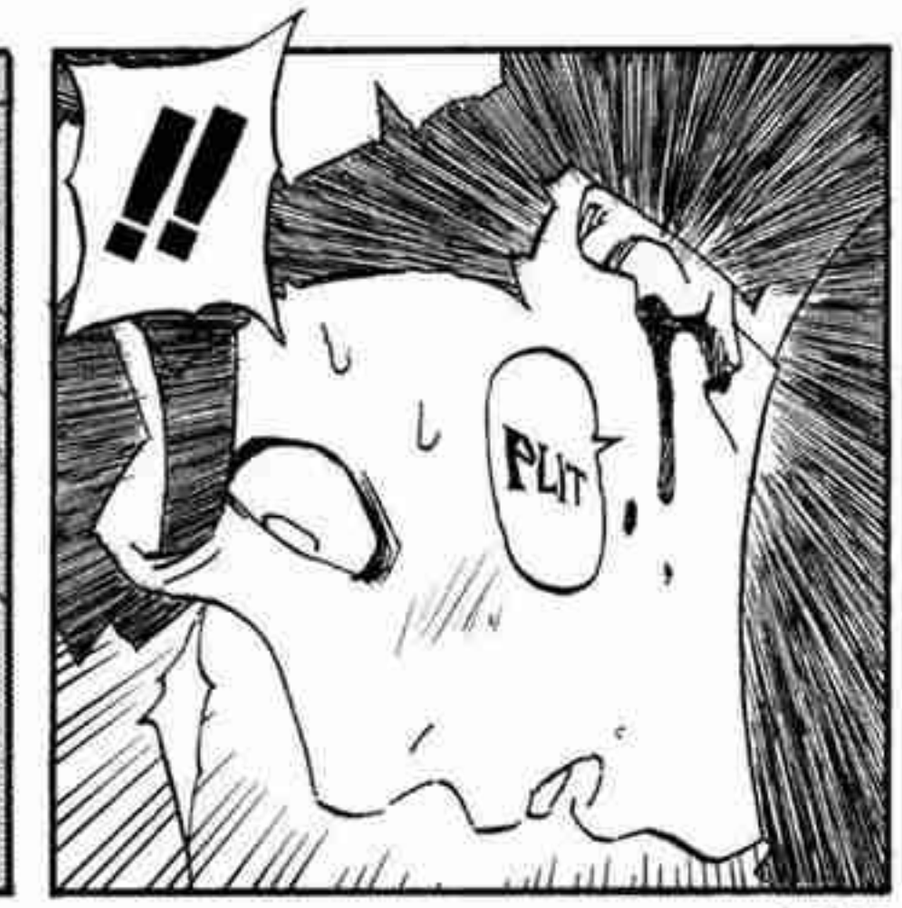
GAKK!
BLOTCH

!!

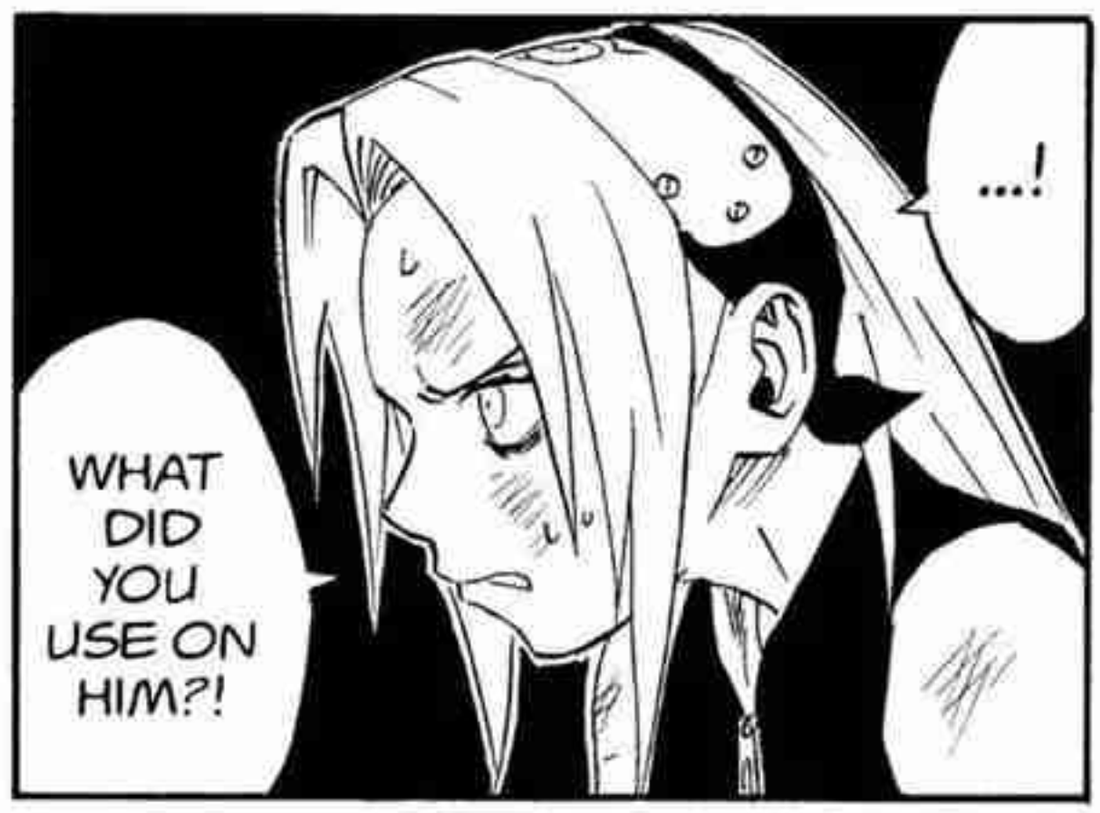
UWOHHH

LEE!!
KOFF
KOFF

MY LEFT EAR...


!!
PLIT

KLAT
...FROM BLOCKING MY ATTACKS.
IT'S THIS APPLIANCE ON MY ARM...
...YOU SEE? IT PREVENTS YOU...


...!
WHAT DID YOU USE ON HIM?!

...
HUF
HUF
HUF

HEH HEH HEH...

EVEN IF YOU BLOCK MY FIST, THE SOUND WAVES REACH YOU.

IT'S SOUND!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND...

...THE FUNDAMENTAL NATURE OF SOUND?

SOUND?!

...!!

YANK

...THOSE VIBRATIONS DISPLACING THE AIR, WHICH TREMBLES AGAINST YOUR EARDRUM.

PRECISELY.

WHEN YOU HEAR A SOUND, IT'S ACTUALLY...

...!

VIBRA-TIONS ...?

MOREOVER, IF THE SOUND IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO UPSET THE LIQUID WITHIN THE SEMI-CIRCULAR CANALS OF THE DEEPEST INNER EAR...

...IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO MAINTAIN YOUR BALANCE.

SEMI-CIRCULAR CANALS

EARDRUM

AND THE HUMAN EARDRUM-- THE TYMPANIC MEMBRANE--

...RUPTURES WHEN EXPOSED TO SOUND LEVELS IN EXCESS OF 150 PHONS.

...SIMPLY DON'T WORK AGAINST US.

SO, YOU SEE, CRUDE, OLD-FASHIONED PHYSICAL ARTS...

HEH HEH... AND IT WILL BE SOME TIME...

...BEFORE YOUR EQUILIBRIUM RETURNS.

IT'S RARE FOR A FOE TO FORCE ME TO REVEAL THE NATURE OF MY TECHNIQUES.

BUT NOW THE TIDE HAS TURNED AGAINST YOU!

YOU DID START OUT VERY WELL, THOUGH.

POP

POP

RRRR

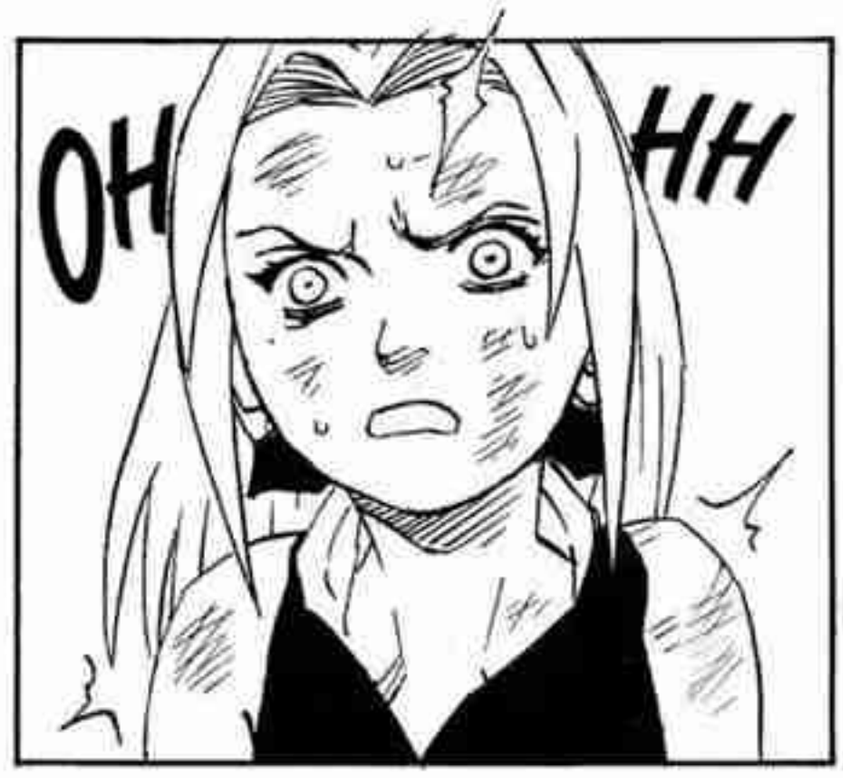
...A FAR MORE ELEGANT AND EFFECTIVE ART THAN YOUR CRUDE APPLICATION OF BRUTE FORCE.

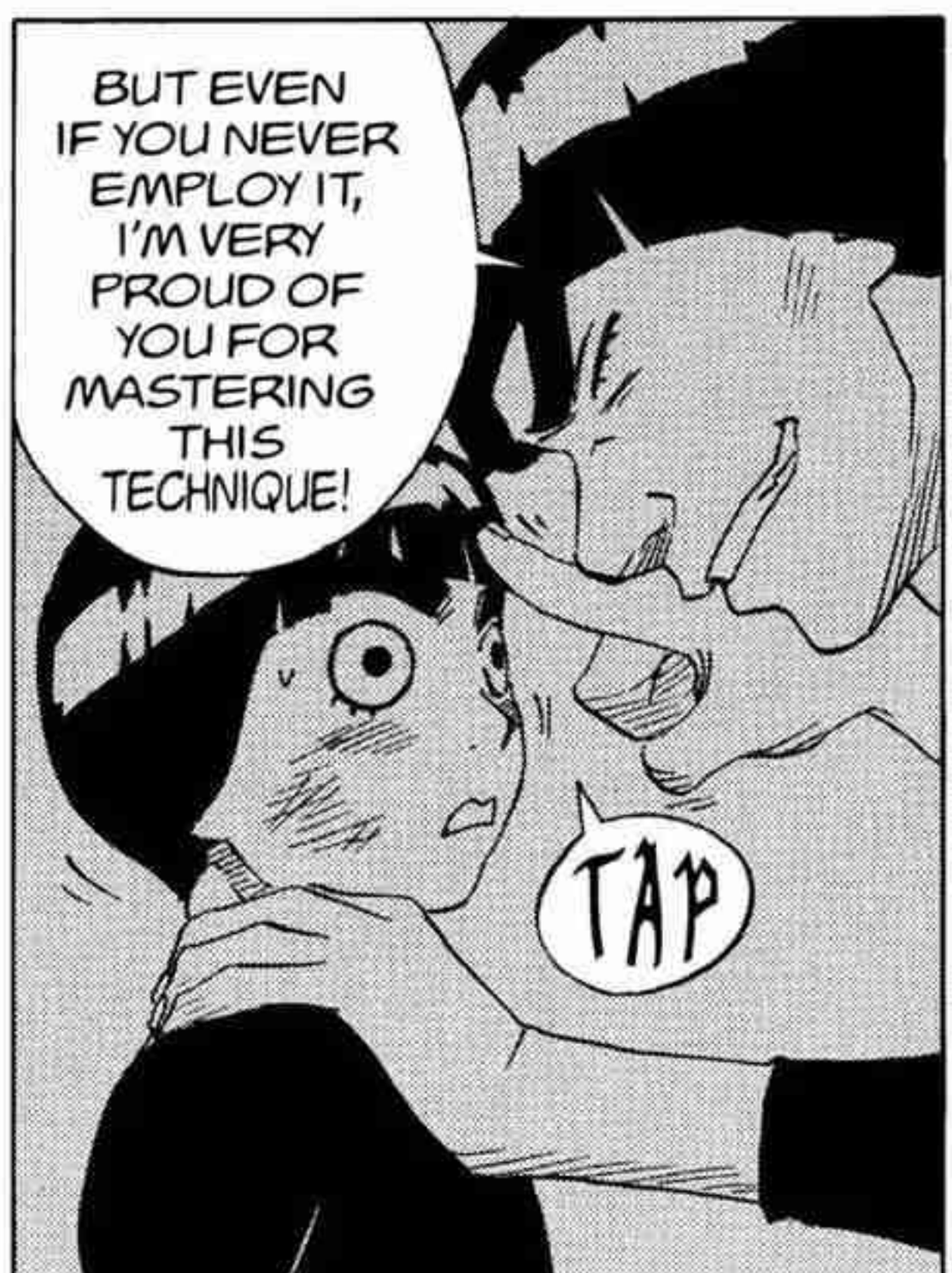
WAFT

WAFT

I CAN WIELD SOUND WAVES AS A WEAPON ...WITH ENOUGH FORCE TO CRUSH ENTIRE BOULDERS!

AND WITH A MERE THOUGHT I CAN USE SOUND WAVES TO FORCE AIR INTO THE EARTH BENEATH ME, TRANSFORMING ROCK-HARD SOIL INTO THE SOFTEST KIND OF CUSHION...





FWUP
AND NOW...
...IT'S YOUR TURN.

GOOD WORK, LEE!
DARN IT...

BLAST...!!

HE'S COMING!

TAK
!!
!!

!!
!!
WHAT?!
FWUMM
FWUMM

LEE!!

IMPOSSIBLE!

EEP!

KONOHA HURRICANE!!

MY LAST ATTACK IS FINALLY SHOWING SOME EFFECT!

PAT

!!

LUBDUB

UHN!!

READ THIS WAY
...BUT NOW, WHERE'S THAT FAST, LASER-SHARP ATTACK OF JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO?
YOU STARTLED ME AT FIRST...
SHOK
KIRAI
OWW!
HAH
THIS ARM OF MINE MAGNIFIES EVERY LITTLE SOUND FROM WITHIN TO THE UTMOST LIMITS. IT'S AN AMPLIFIER...

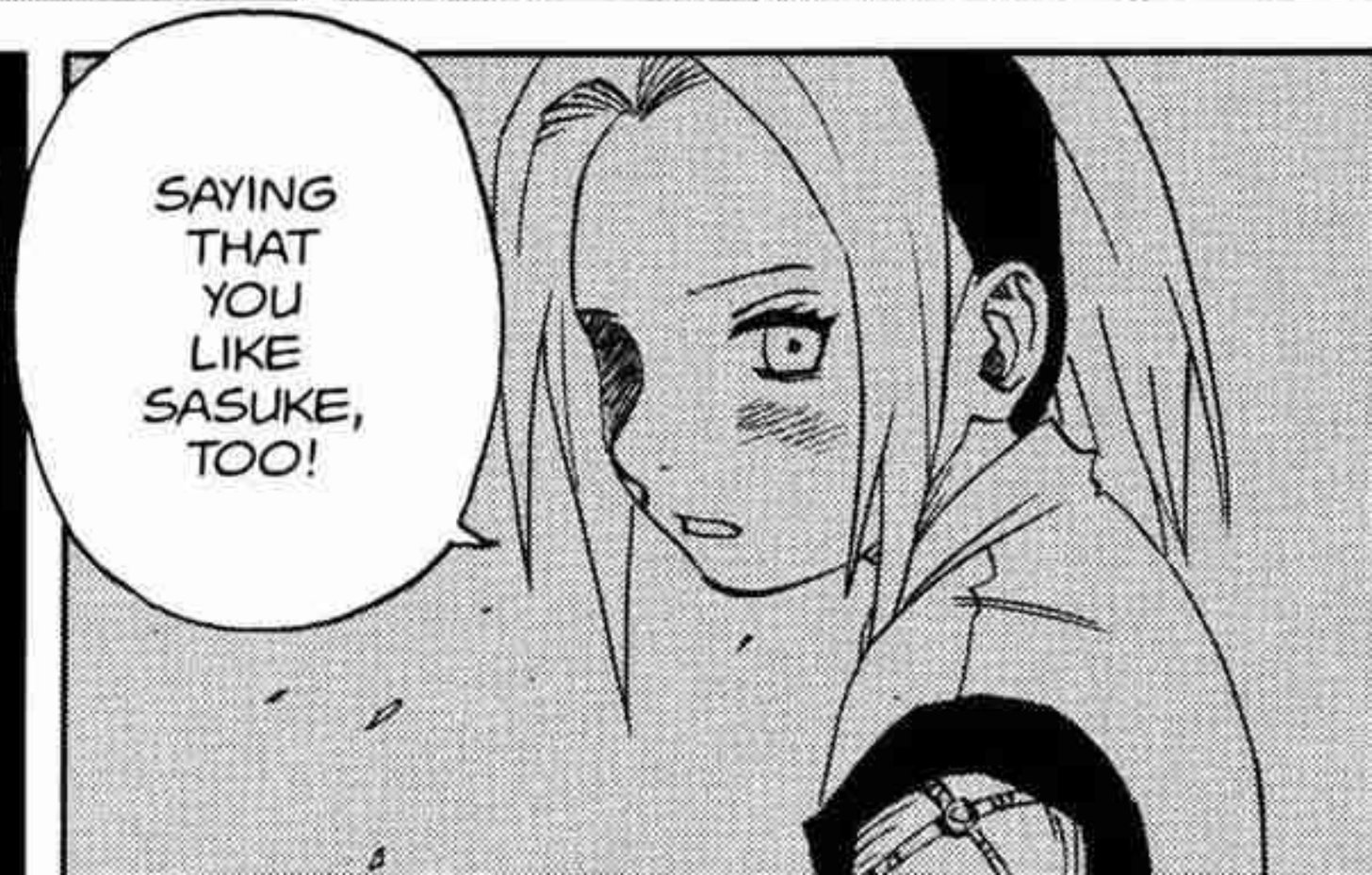
...AND IT GOES TO !!!!!
AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT FAR FROM RELYING ON THE MOMENTUM OF MY ARM'S SWING...
...I CAN USE MY CHAKRA TO DIRECT ITS POWER TOWARD MY CHOSEN PREY, WHEREVER HE MAY LIE!!
LEEEEE!!
AAUUGH!!
LUBOUB

FWUP
...FOR THE COUP DE GRACE!
NOW...
TAP
AAARGH!!
KLAT
KLAT
I DON'T THINK SO!
FWANNG
...OH ...MY...
SMAT
SMAT
SMAT
...

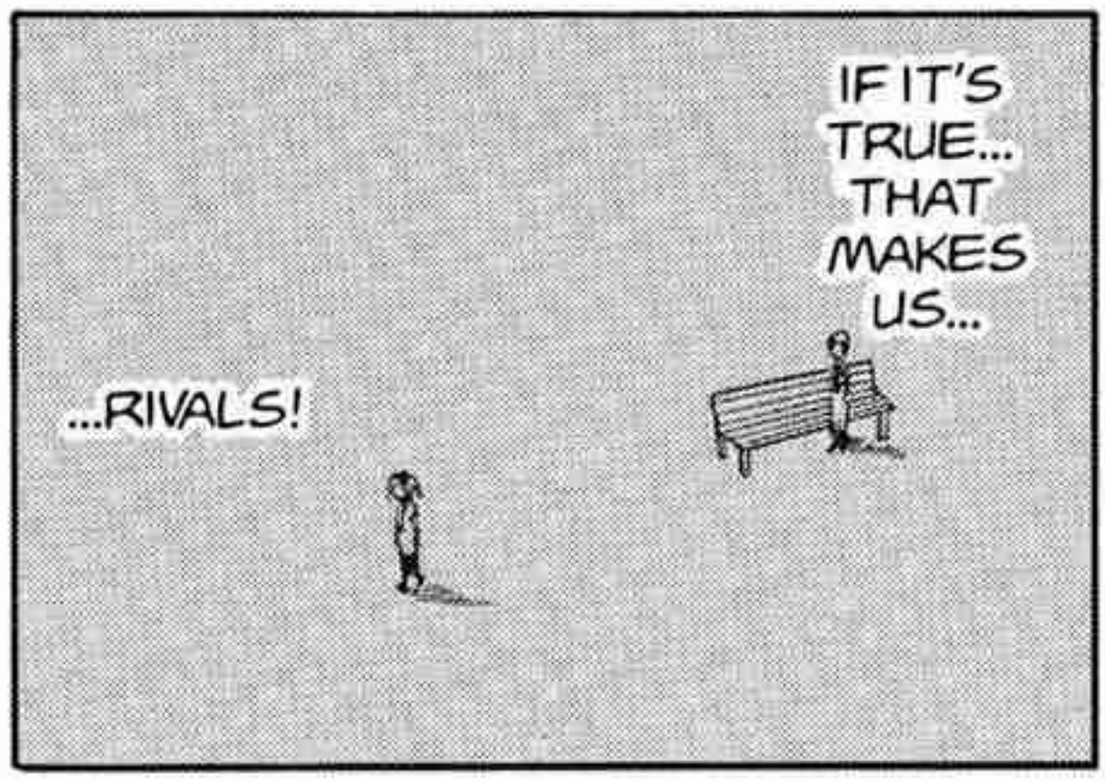
IT LOOKS LIKE SASUKE AND NARUTO ARE JUST UNCONSCIOUS... BUT...

RUNNING AWAY SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PLAN!

THOSE GUYS ARE GETTING CREAMED!!



WHY AM I REMEMBERING THAT NOW?
HEY! INO! WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?!


IF IT'S TRUE... THAT MAKES US...
...RIVALS!

...CAN BEAT THEM!
NOT EVEN I...

SHAKE SHAKE
THOSE GUYS WOULD TAKE ME OUT IN ABOUT 10 SECONDS FLAT!

...!!
...WE MAY JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. IF WE BLUNDER IN NOW...

!
FWUUM
FW
AP
SHF

AIEE!!

VWO

SHINNG

HAH!!

SHINNG

OM

OW!
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO ALL SHINOBI... FUSSING WITH YOUR LOOKS WHEN YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON YOUR TRAINING!
YANK

WHAT NINJA TECHNIQUE IS THAT-- THE ART OF DEEP CONDITION-ING?
LOVELY HAIR... SO MUCH MORE BOUNCE AND SHINE THAN MINE HAS!

YO!
HAH! GOOD ONE!!
...IS ENTER-TAIN HER!
THE LEAST WE CAN DO...
!!
ZAKU... WHY DON'T YOU FINISH OFF SASUKE OR ONE OF HER OTHER FALLEN HEART-THROBS...
...RIGHT IN FRONT OF THIS LOVESICK LITTLE PIG?

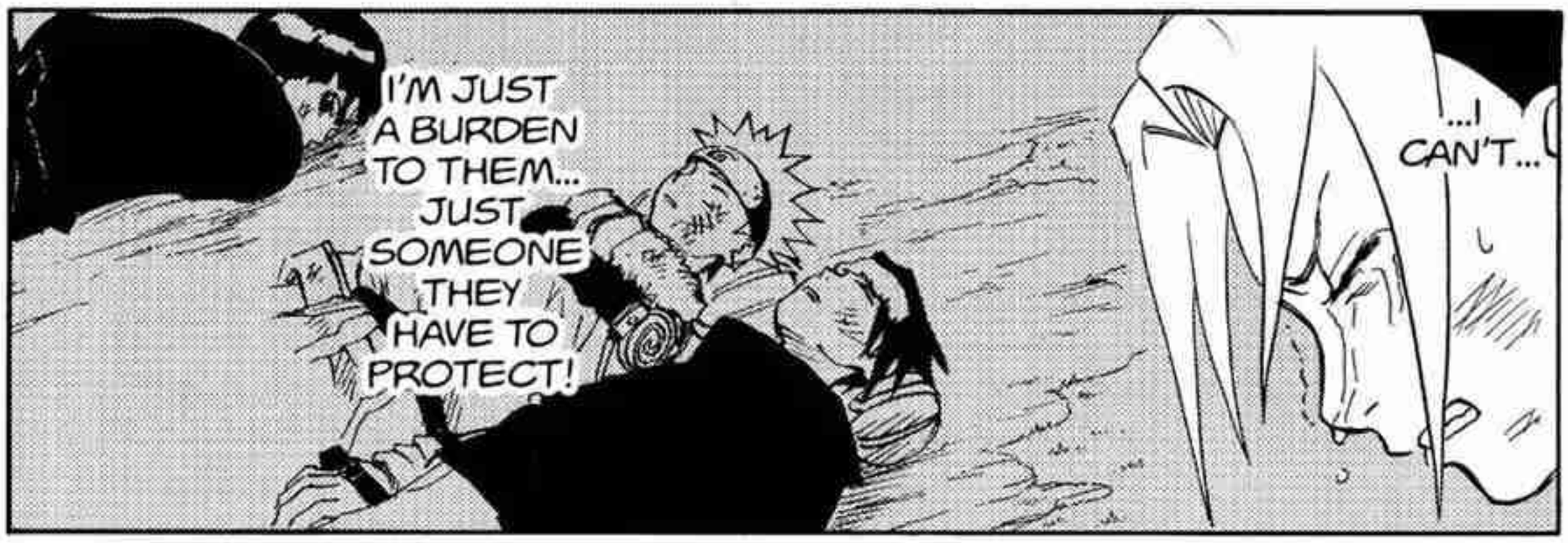
SKF
S-SAKURA...

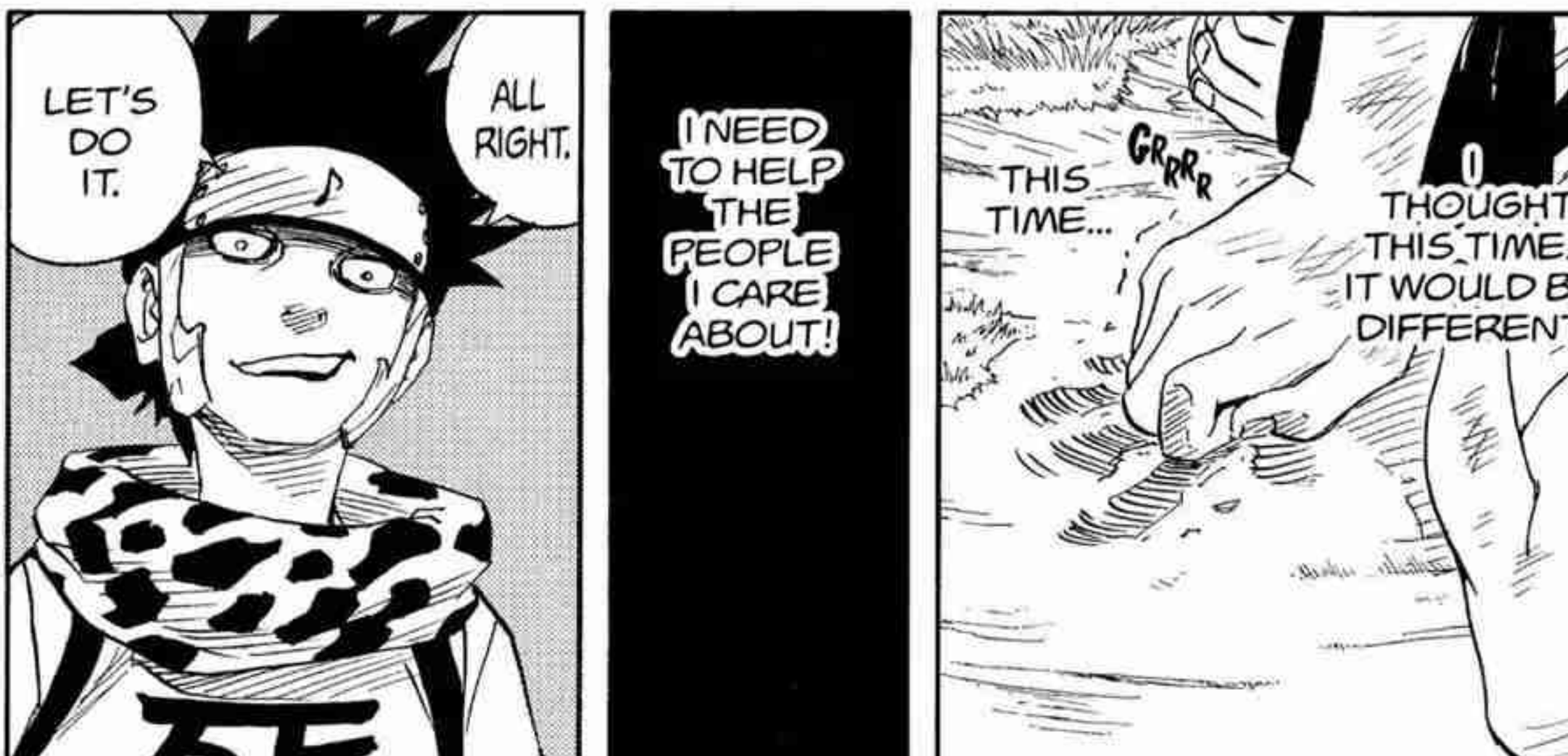
HOLD STILL!
NO! THEY WOULDN'T...!
NGH!

I CAN'T SUM-MON ANY STRENGTH...
SKRITCH!
SCRAPE

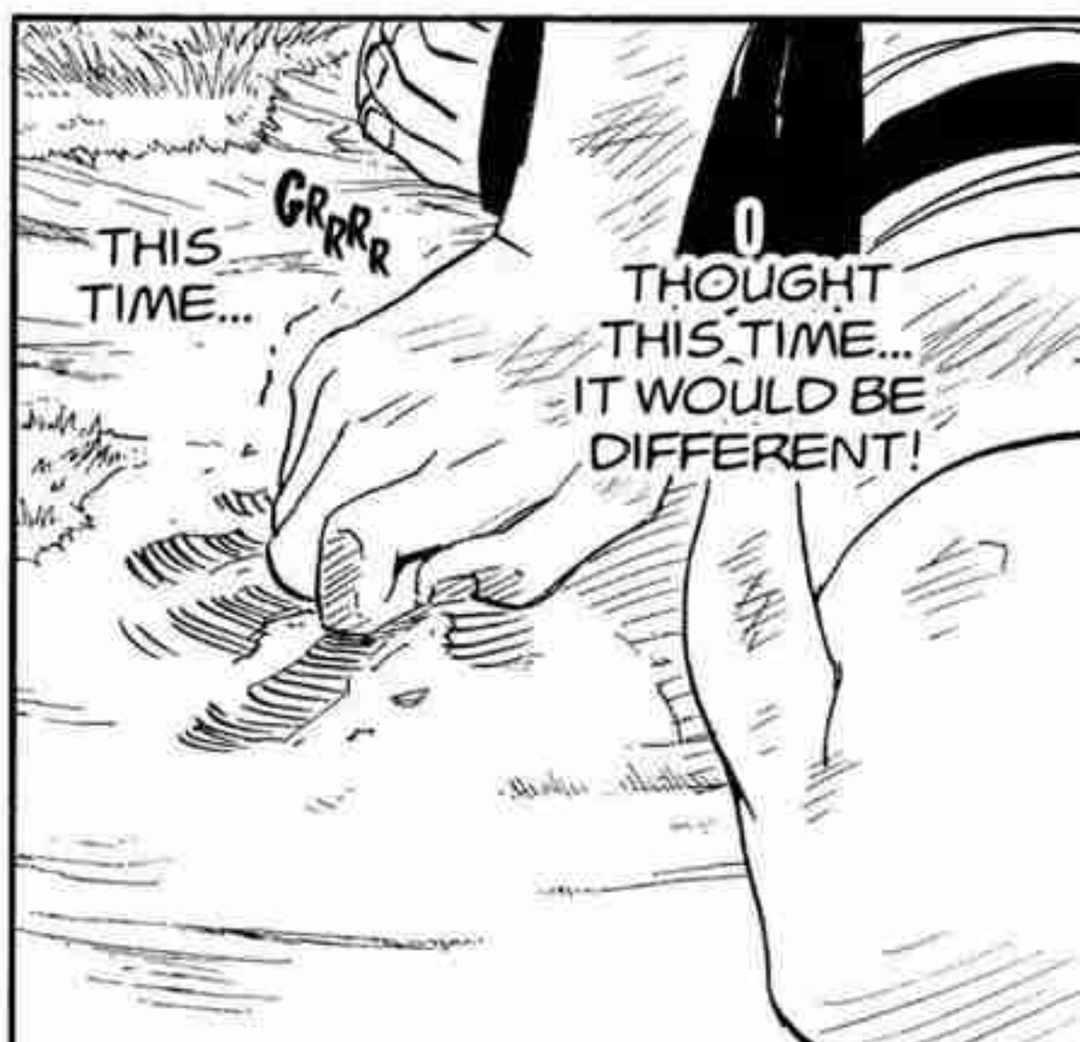
I...

PLIT PLIT





I NEED TO HELP THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT!



SH

WH-WHAT'LL WE DO?!

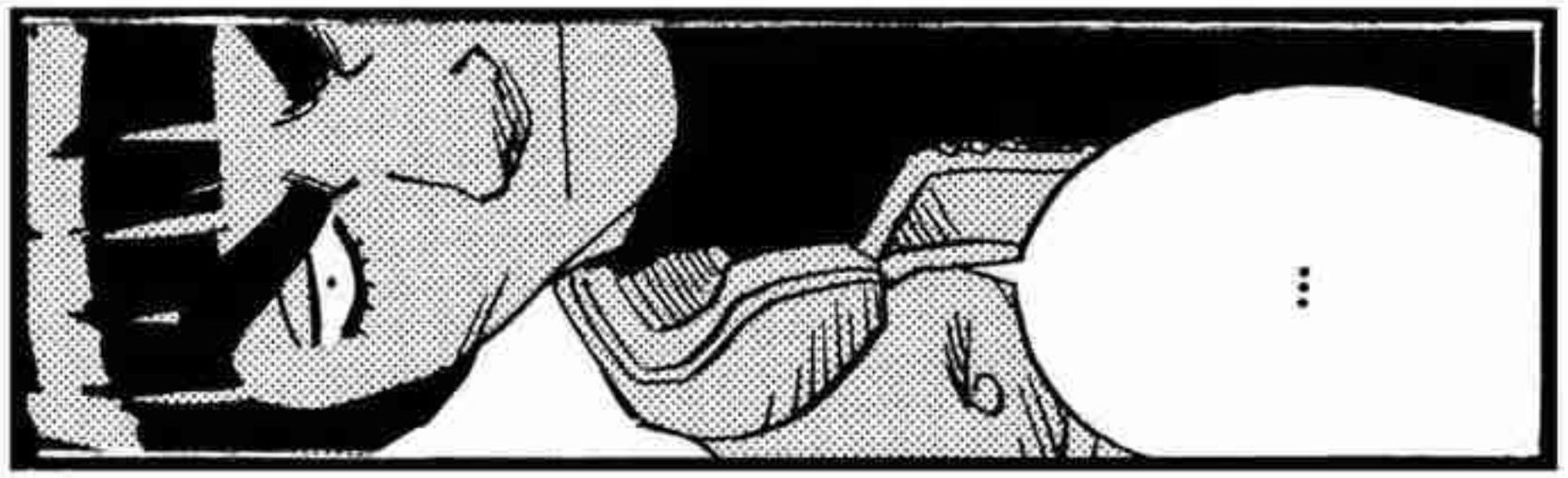
!!
HEY! SASUKE AND NARUTO ARE IN DEEP TROUBLE!

HEH HEH!
TOK

YOU THINK SO?
HEH

RRRN
YOUR TRICKS ARE USELESS AGAINST ME, LITTLE GIRL.

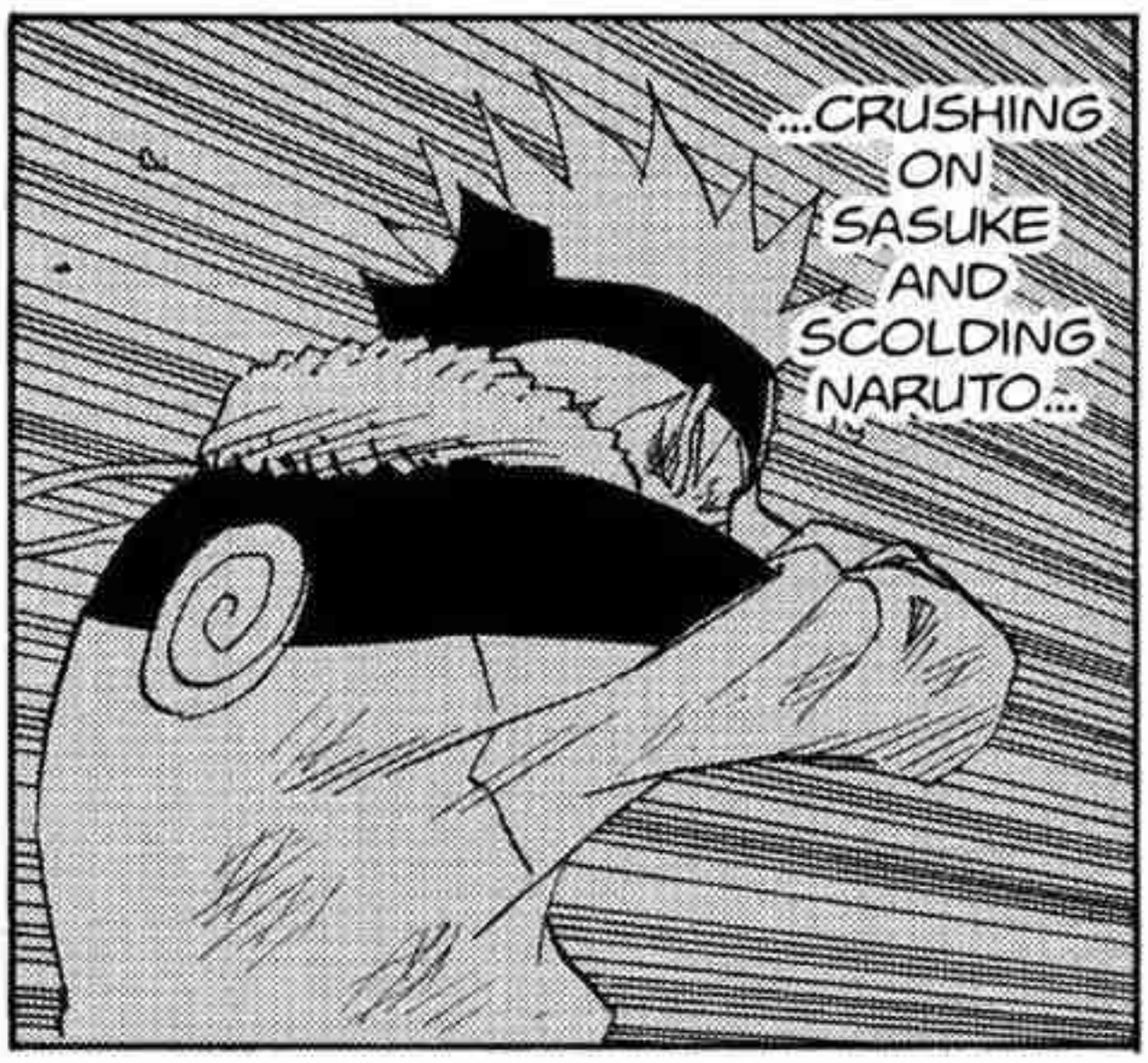
!!!
!
!
!!
WHAT...?!



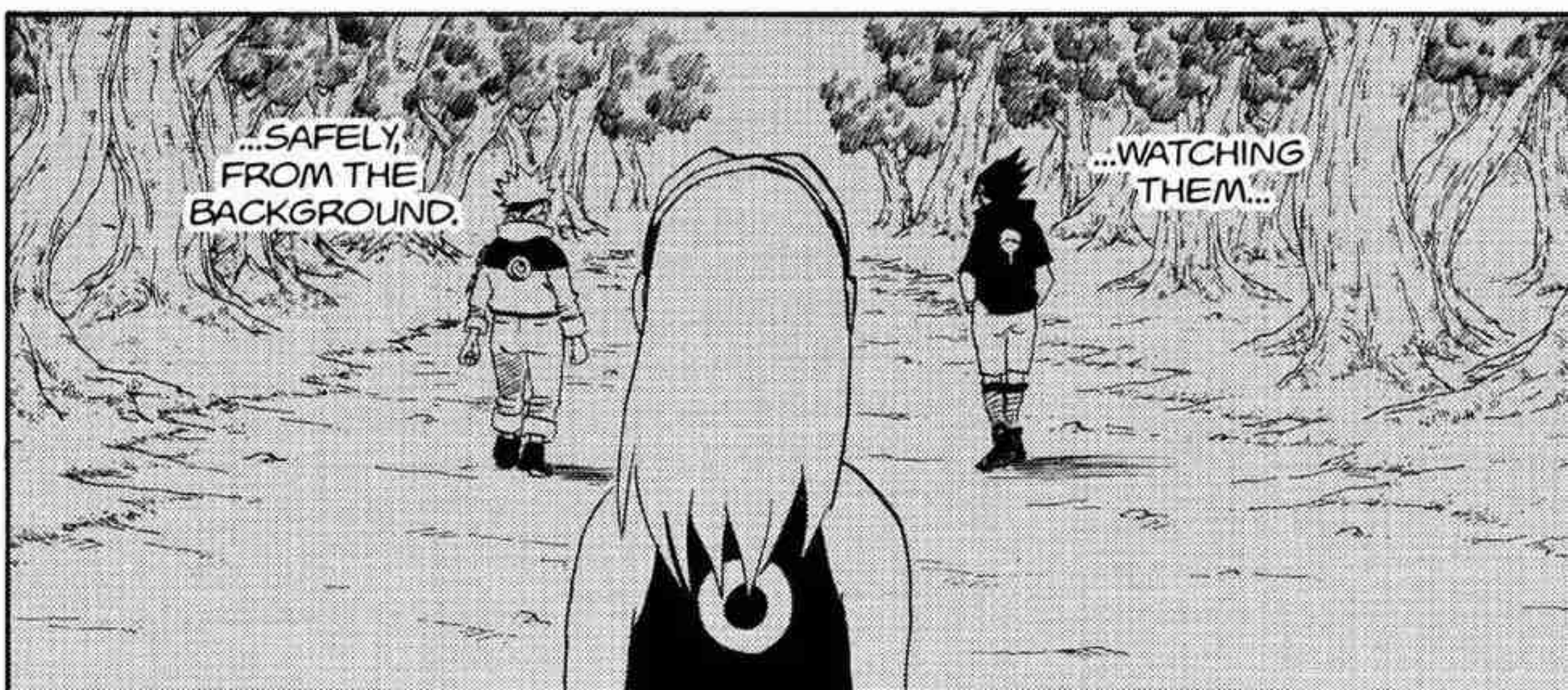
Number 54:

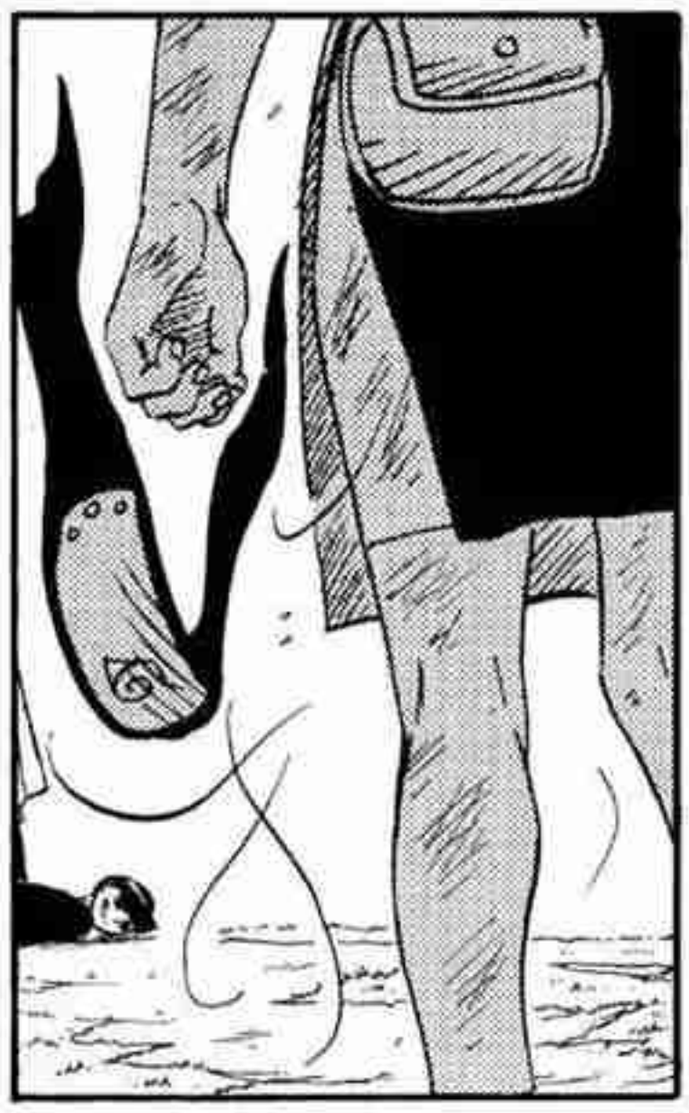
Sakura and Ino

...THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS A FULL-FLEDGED NINJA...
I'D ALWAYS...


...CRUSHING ON SASUKE AND SCOLDING NARUTO...

...PROUD TO BE AN EQUAL AS I TRAILED AFTER MY TEAMMATES...


...SAFELY, FROM THE BACKGROUND.
...WATCHING THEM...



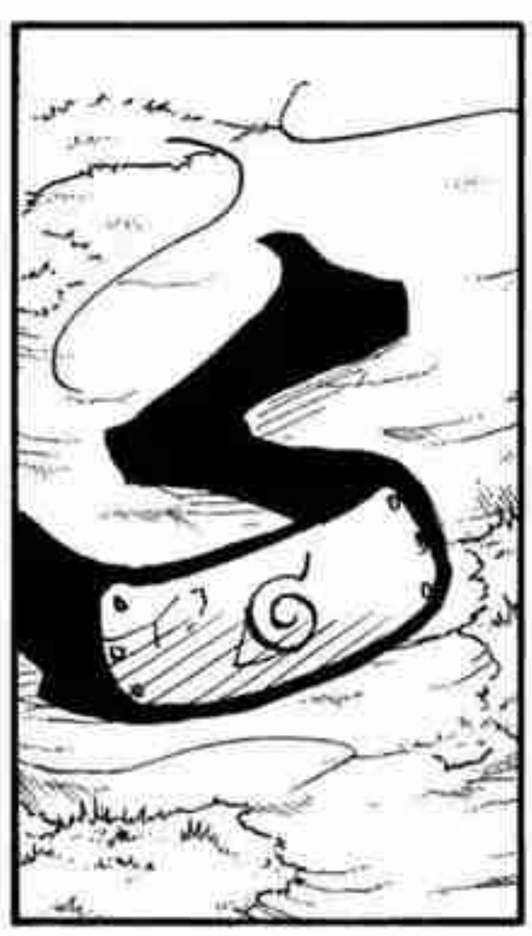
...WOULD BOTH RISK ANYTHING TO PROTECT ME.

WHILE THEY...

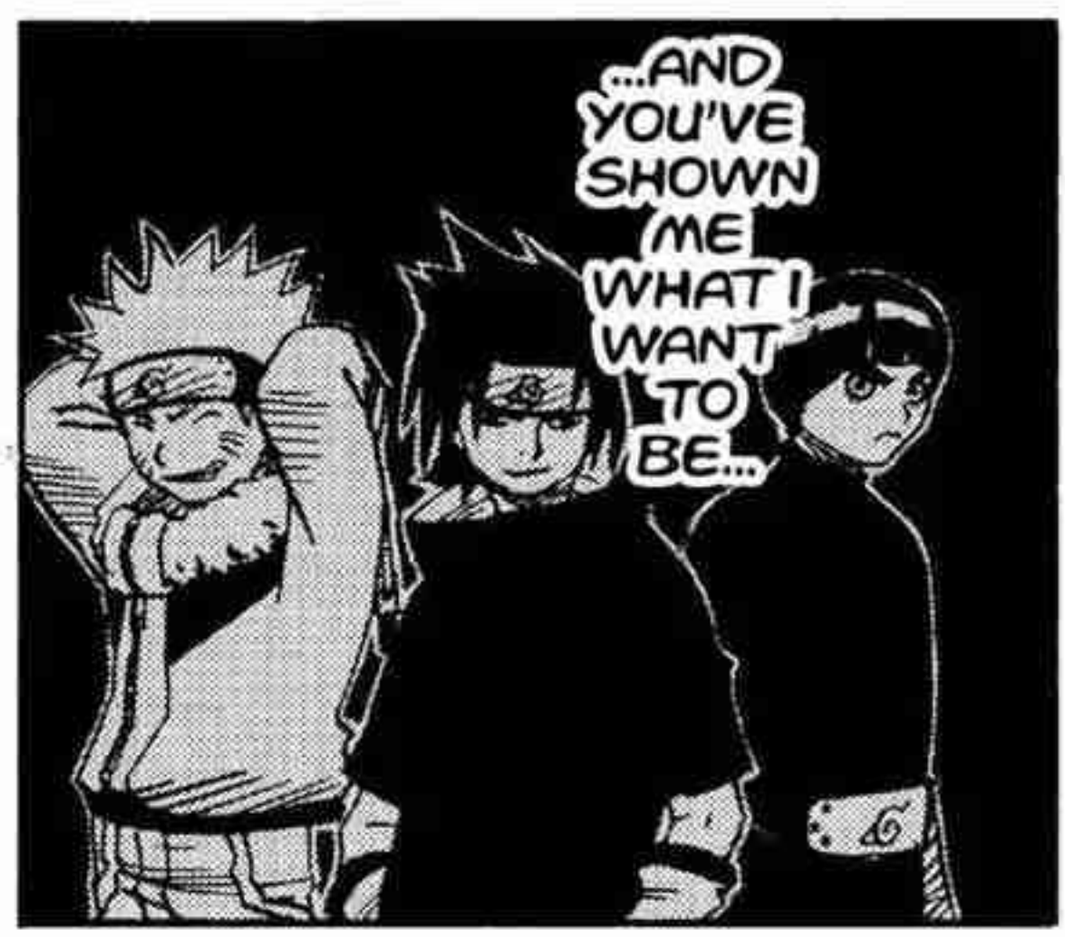
YOU'RE ALL MY TEACHERS...

...AND HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO COME BETWEEN ME AND DANGER.

LEE SAYS HE LIKES ME, TOO...
UHN...



...LIKE YOU. ALL OF YOU.
GRRR

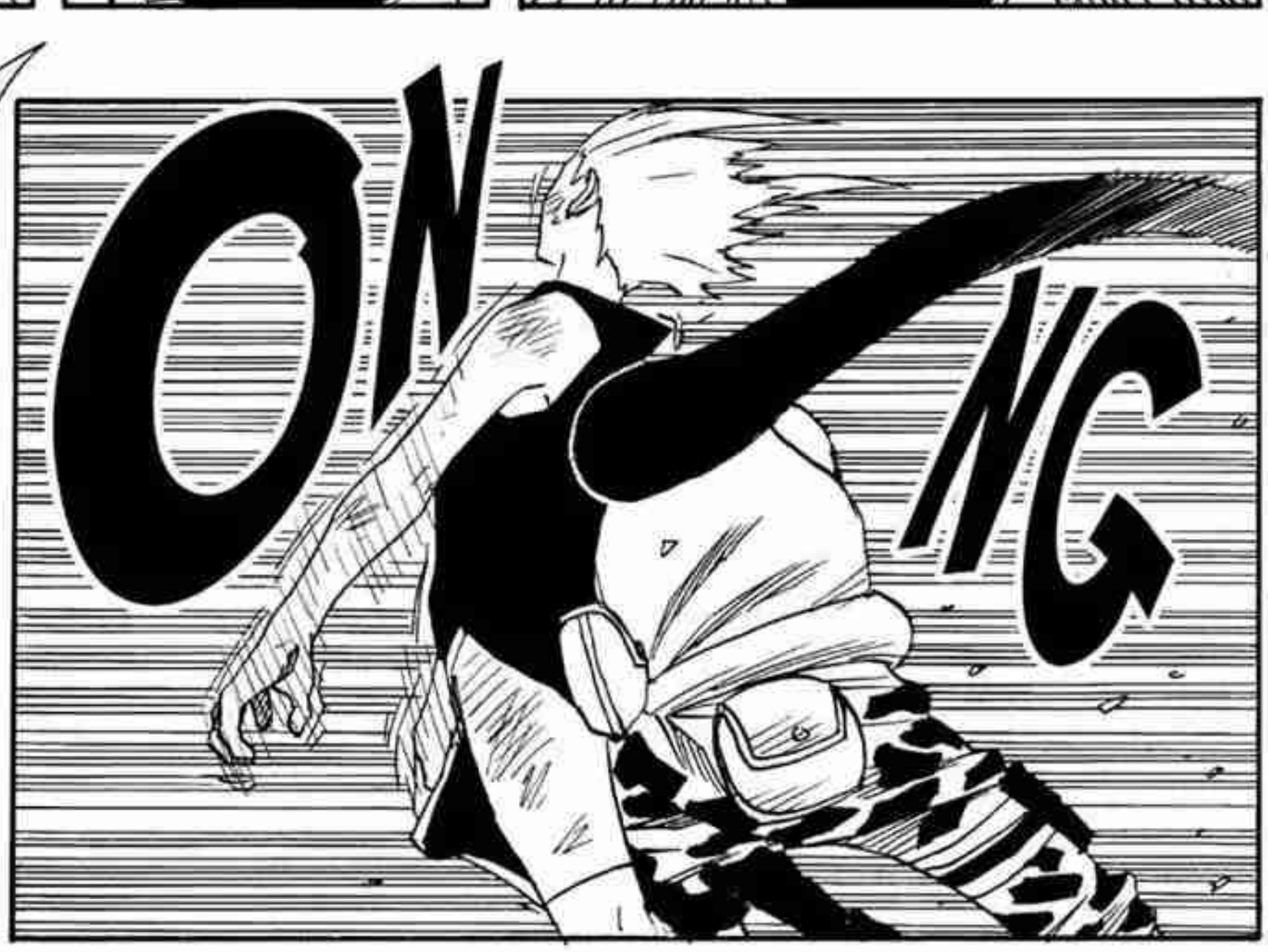

...AND YOU'VE SHOWN ME WHAT I WANT TO BE...

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN...

...TO WATCH MY BACK!!

SWUP

SHIFT



...SHE'S MAKING A MOCKERY OF THIS, TRYING TO DECEIVE US WITH SUCH A RUDIMENTARY TECHNIQUE!
ZIGGING WHEN I ZAGGED...
SHA

THE ART OF SUBSTITUTION!!

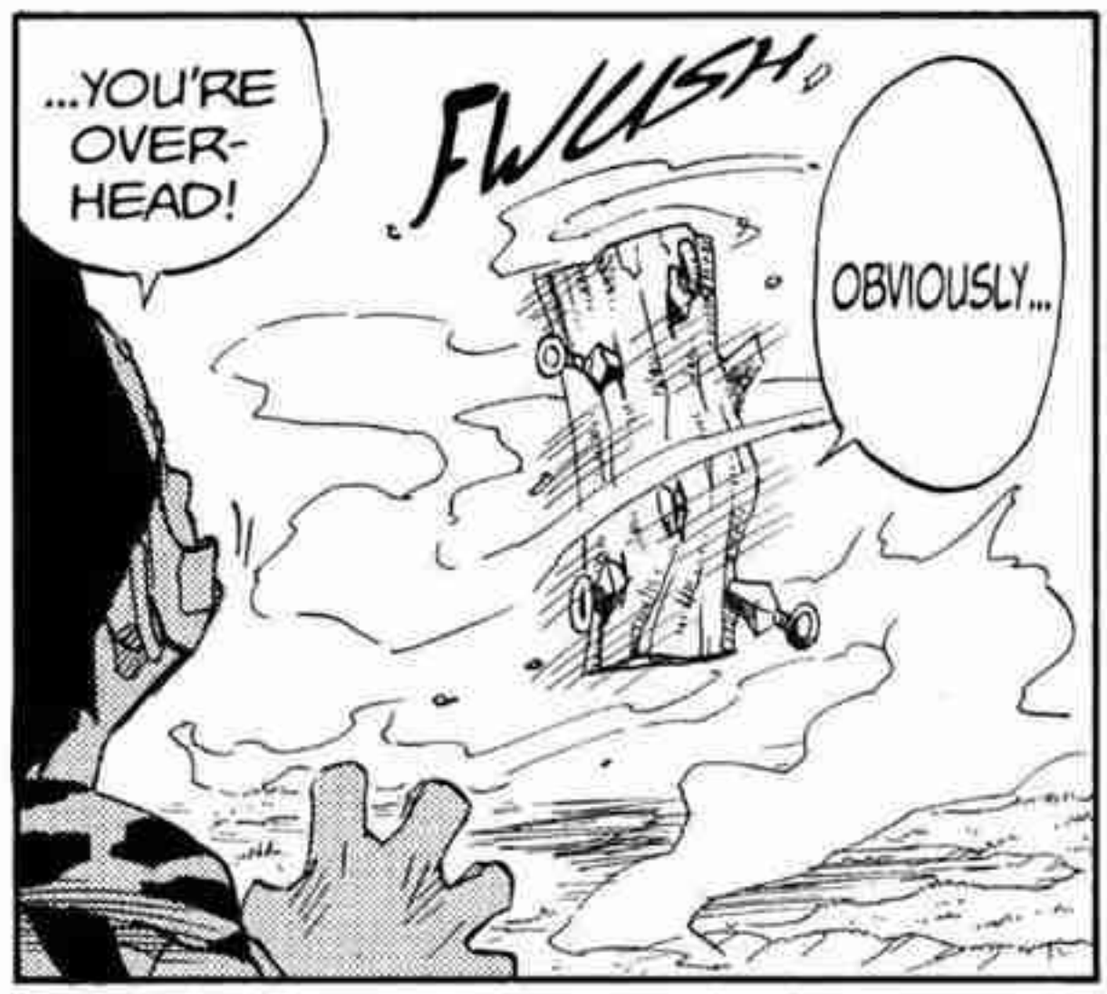
THE NERVE OF HER, COMING RIGHT FOR ME!
KIN, LOOK OUT!
HOP
TAK
TAK
PENNING

THE AIR PRESSURE IS AT FULL STRENGTH, WITH NO ULTRASONIC OUTPUT!...
GIVE IT UP.
TZZZ

PAHSH
ZANKUHA! THE BLAST THAT SLICES THE AIR!!
THOK
PAHSH
POOR, FOOLISH GIRL... JUST A ONE-TRICK PONY.
PAHSH
PAHSH
PAHSH
THUK

SHH
ZT

!!


...YOU'RE OVER-HEAD!
FWUSH
OBVIOUSLY...

FWIP
FWIP
MY SMALLEST SKILL IS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU!!

FW
UP

SMAT
KLAT
TRY IT TWICE, TRY IT THRICE... THAT TRICK WILL NEVER WORK ON ME!

SHHF
SHHF
HEH HEH...
COME OUT, COME OUT, WHEREVER YOU...

!
PLIT
PLIT
...EH?

THUNK
!!
THUNK
THUNK

THIS TIME...
...IT'S REAL!!

WHAT THE...?!

POW
CHOMP
!!
ACK!
YANK
SMAP
GET OFF!!
SMAK
SMAK
!
!
!
!
!

SOB
SOB
SAKURA...
BOP BOP
KRUNCH BOP

MY NAME IS YAMANAKA INO. WHAT'S YOURS?
I'M SAKURA... HARUNO SAKURA...

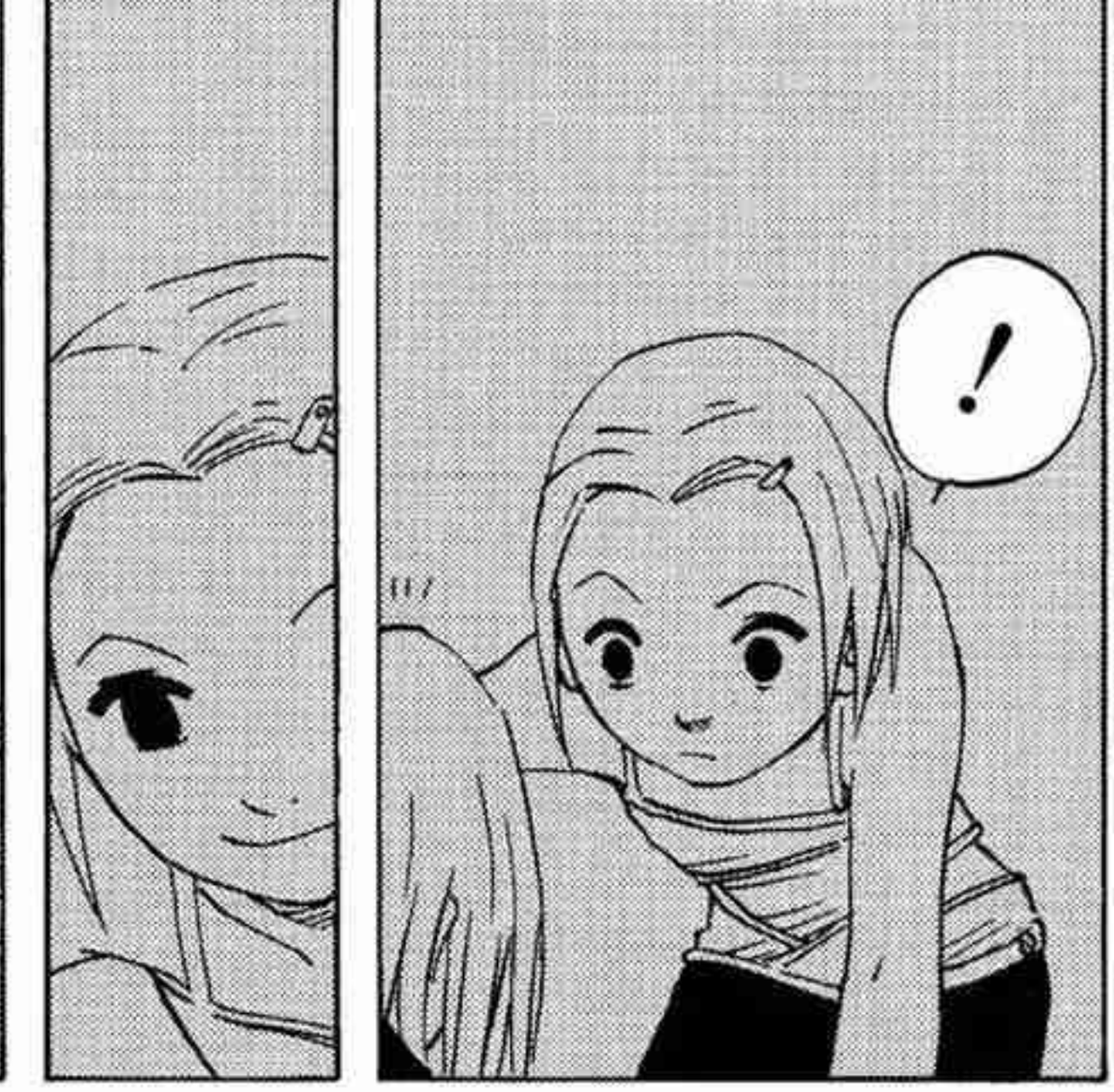
HICCUP
...!
FLINCH
WHO ARE YOU...?

!
EVERYONE ALWAYS CALLS YOU "BILLBOARD BROW," AND PICKS ON YOU...
HICCUP

AND YOU HIDE BEHIND ALL OF THAT HAIR... LIKE A SHEEPDOG...
FLUFF
...OR A SHY LITTLE GHOST.
SOB

...SO OF COURSE YOU GET TEASED.
YOU DO HAVE A HIGH FOREHEAD...
I CAN'T HELP NOTICING...
TAP
FLUFF

HUH?
TELL YOU WHAT, SAKURA... MEET ME HERE AGAIN TOMORROW, OKAY?
I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE... SO DON'T STAND ME UP.
TAK

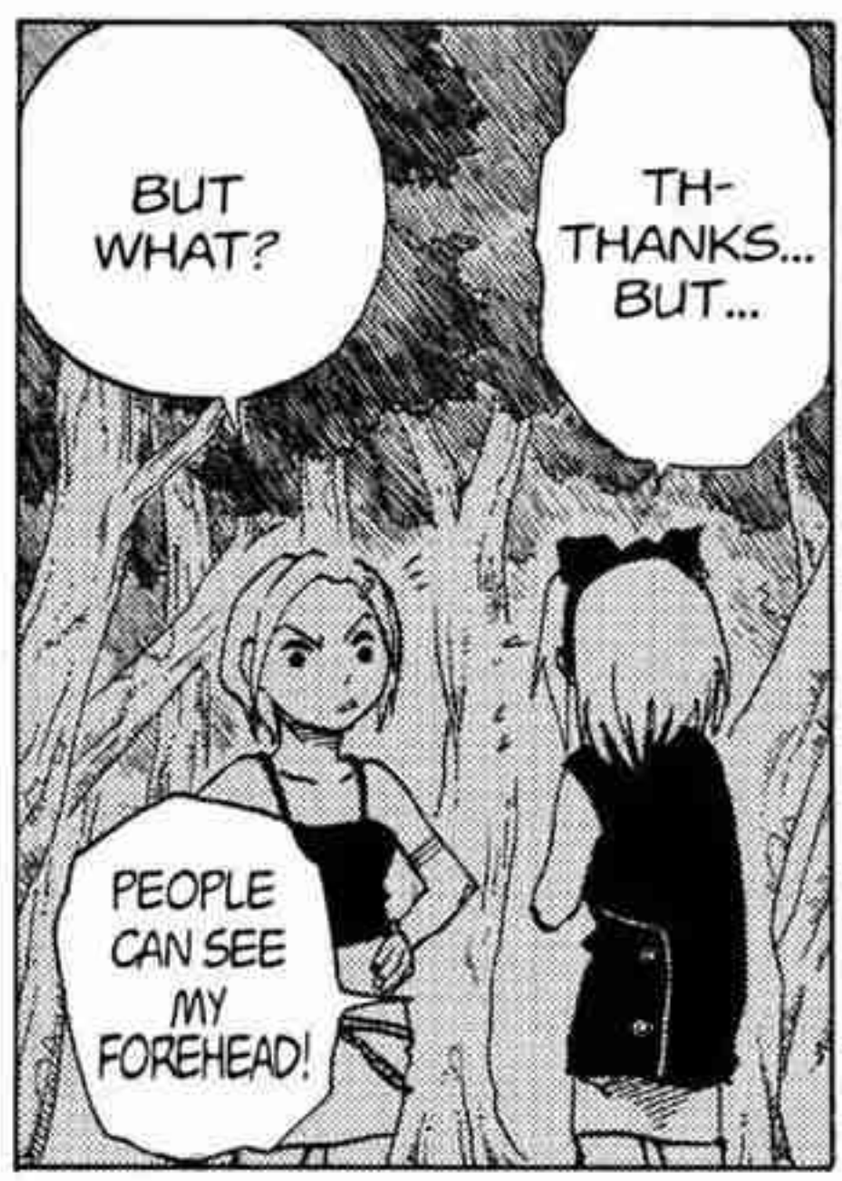

!

IT'S MUCH CUTER LIKE THIS, SAKURA.
YOU CAN KEEP THE RIBBON...

SMAK
DARN IT, LET GO!
GRRRRRR
SMAK

LET THE WORLD SEE THAT PRETTY FACE!! STRIKE A POSE!
INO...

THE ONLY REASON THEY TEASE YOU ABOUT IT IS BECAUSE YOU'VE MADE IT OBVIOUS YOU'RE SENSITIVE. DON'T PLAY THEIR GAME. SHOW IT OFF!

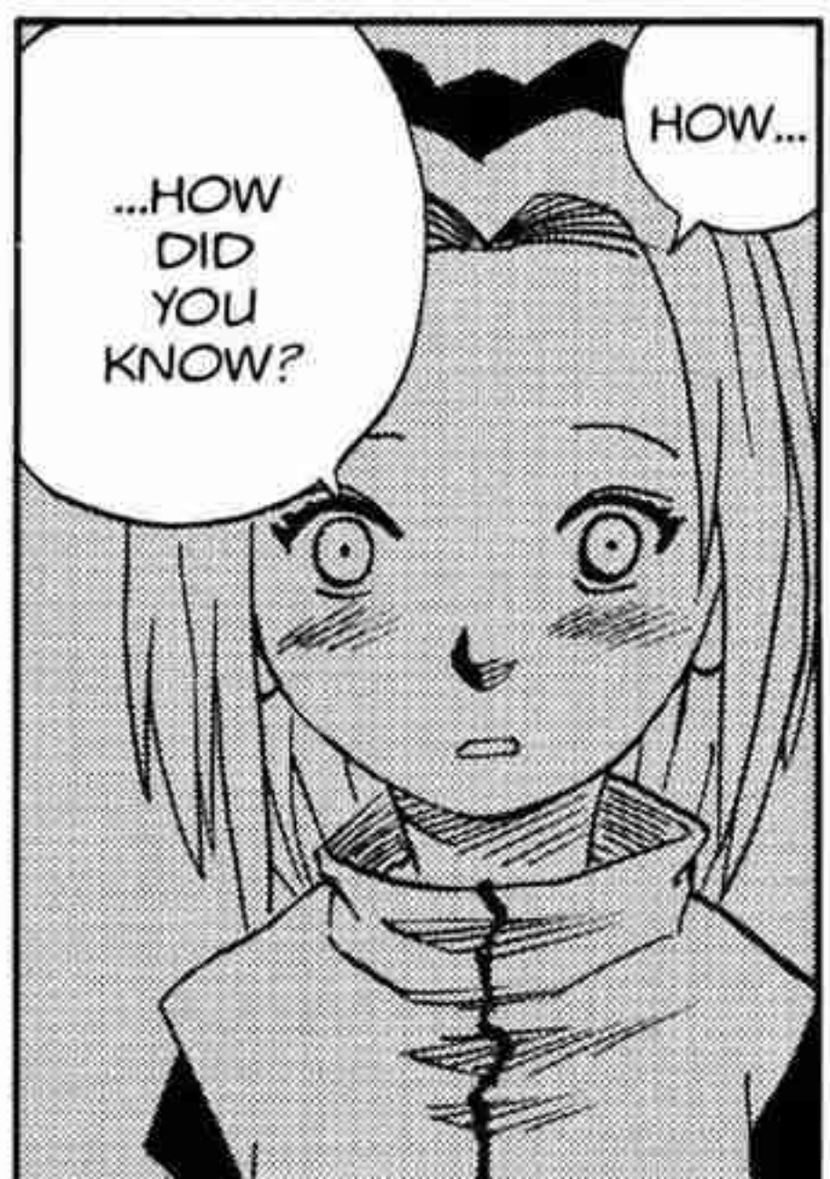

BUT WHAT?
TH-THANKS... BUT...
PEOPLE CAN SEE MY FOREHEAD!

SHF
HOW DO YOU DO?
SAY HELLO!

THIS IS SAKURA.
HEY, INO! WHO'S YOUR NEW FRIEND?

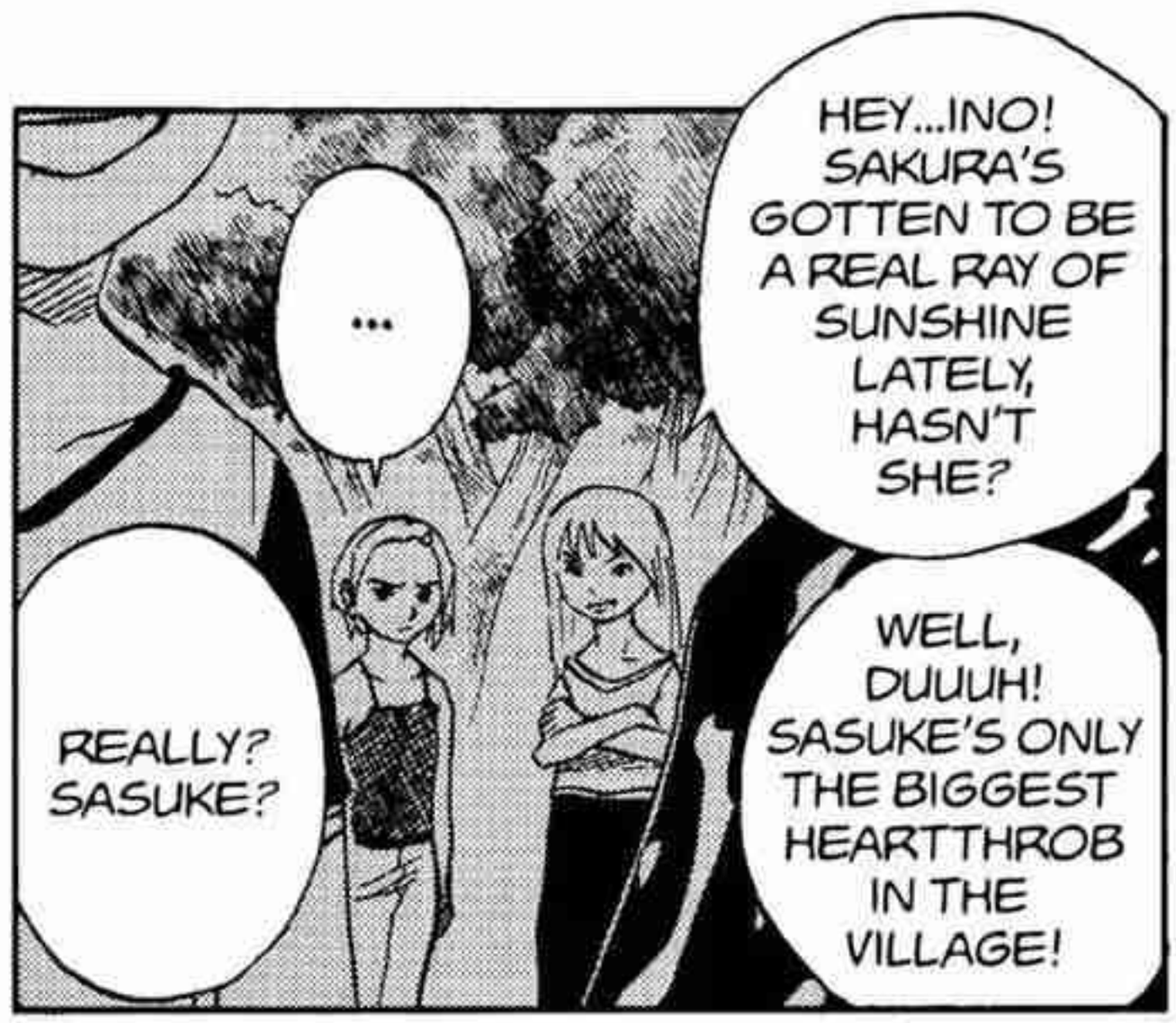
GUESS WHO IT IS!
HEY, EVERYONE... WANT TO KNOW A SECRET? THERE'S A BOY I THINK IS CUTE.

WHAP WHAP


...HOW DID YOU KNOW?
HOW...

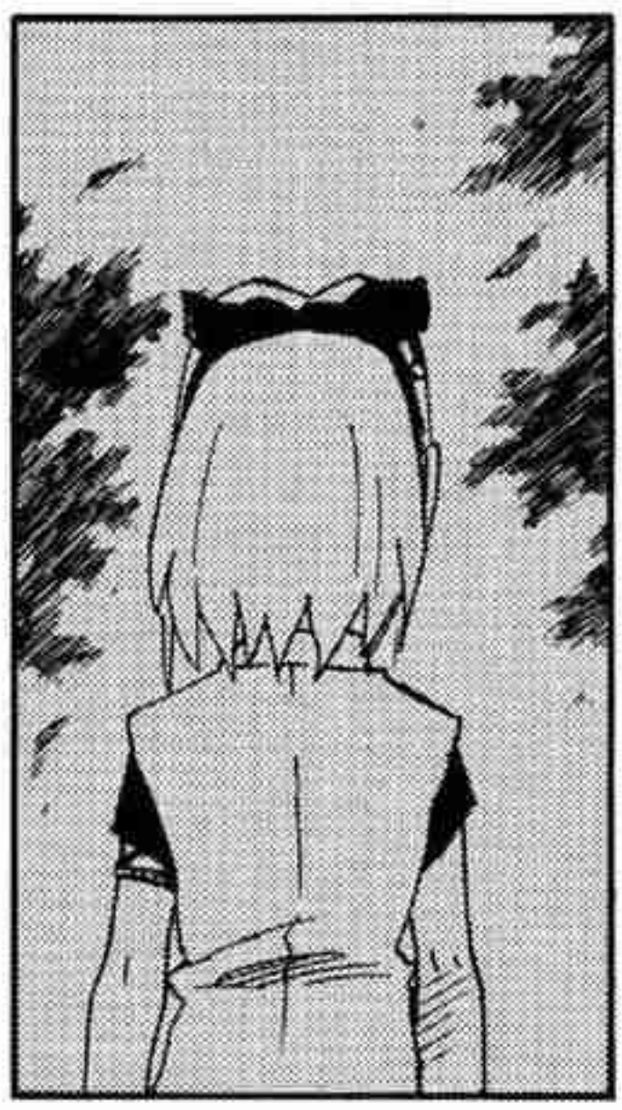
DON'T TELL ME IT'S SASUKE!
WHAT ARE WE, MIND READERS?!

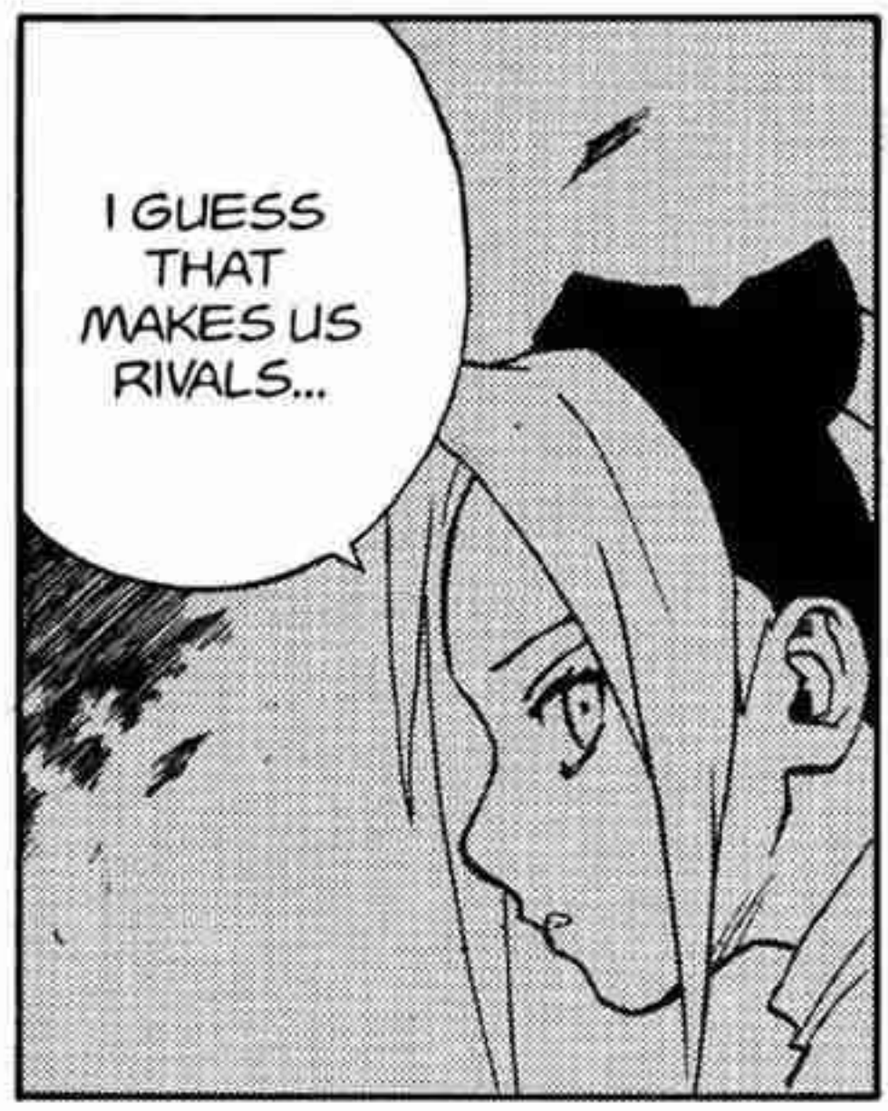
HE JUST STRUTS AROUND, ACTING LIKE HE'S SO COOL.
HIM! HAH!


...
HEY...INO! SAKURA'S GOTTEN TO BE A REAL RAY OF SUNSHINE LATELY, HASN'T SHE?
REALLY? SASUKE?
WELL, DUUUH! SASUKE'S ONLY THE BIGGEST HEARTTHROB IN THE VILLAGE!

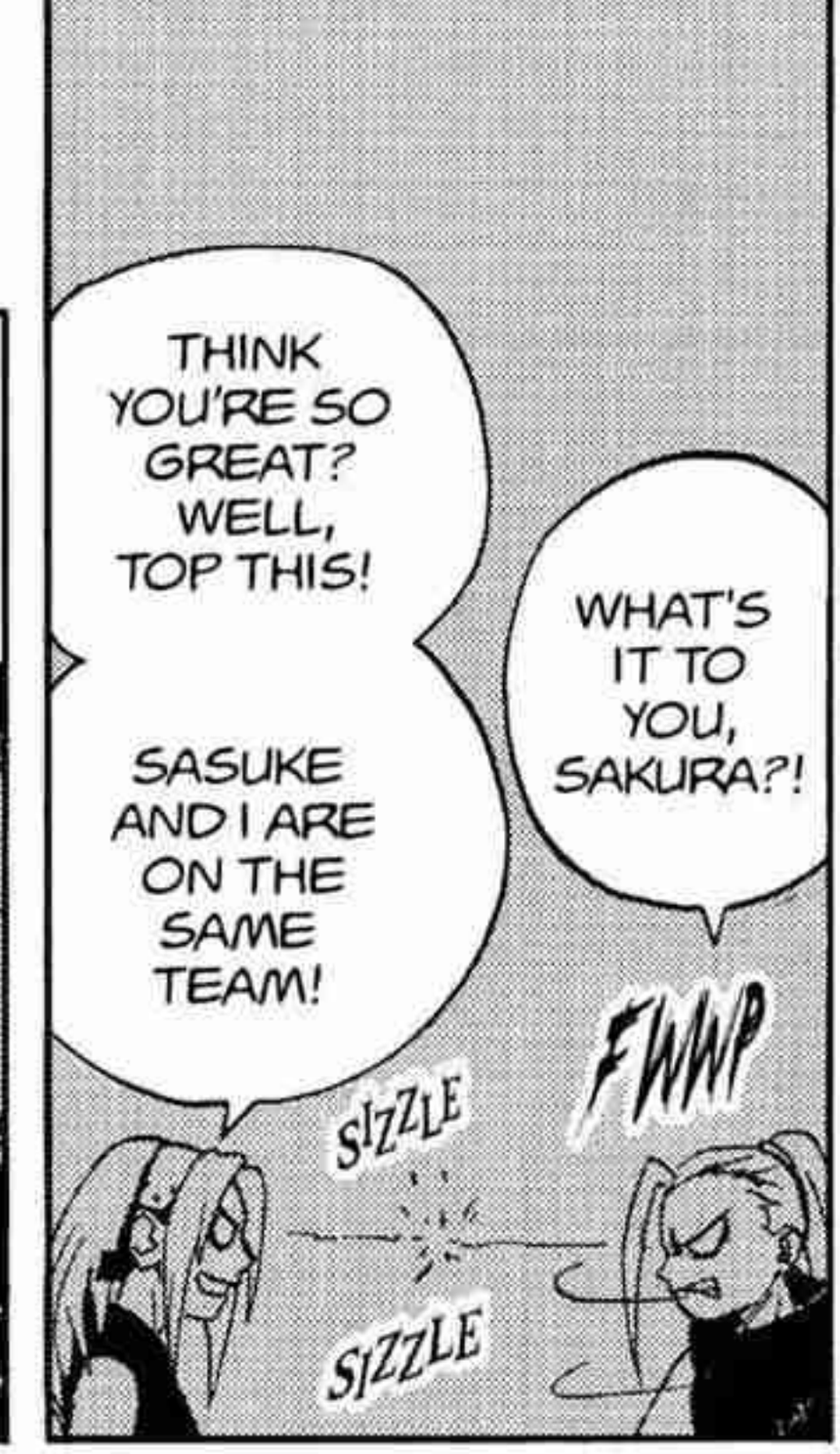
EVERYONE SAYS YOU'RE AFTER SASUKE, TOO, INO...
SAKURA...

HEY, INO! SASUKE SEEMS TO LIKE GIRLS WITH LONG HAIR, SO I'M GOING TO GROW MINE...



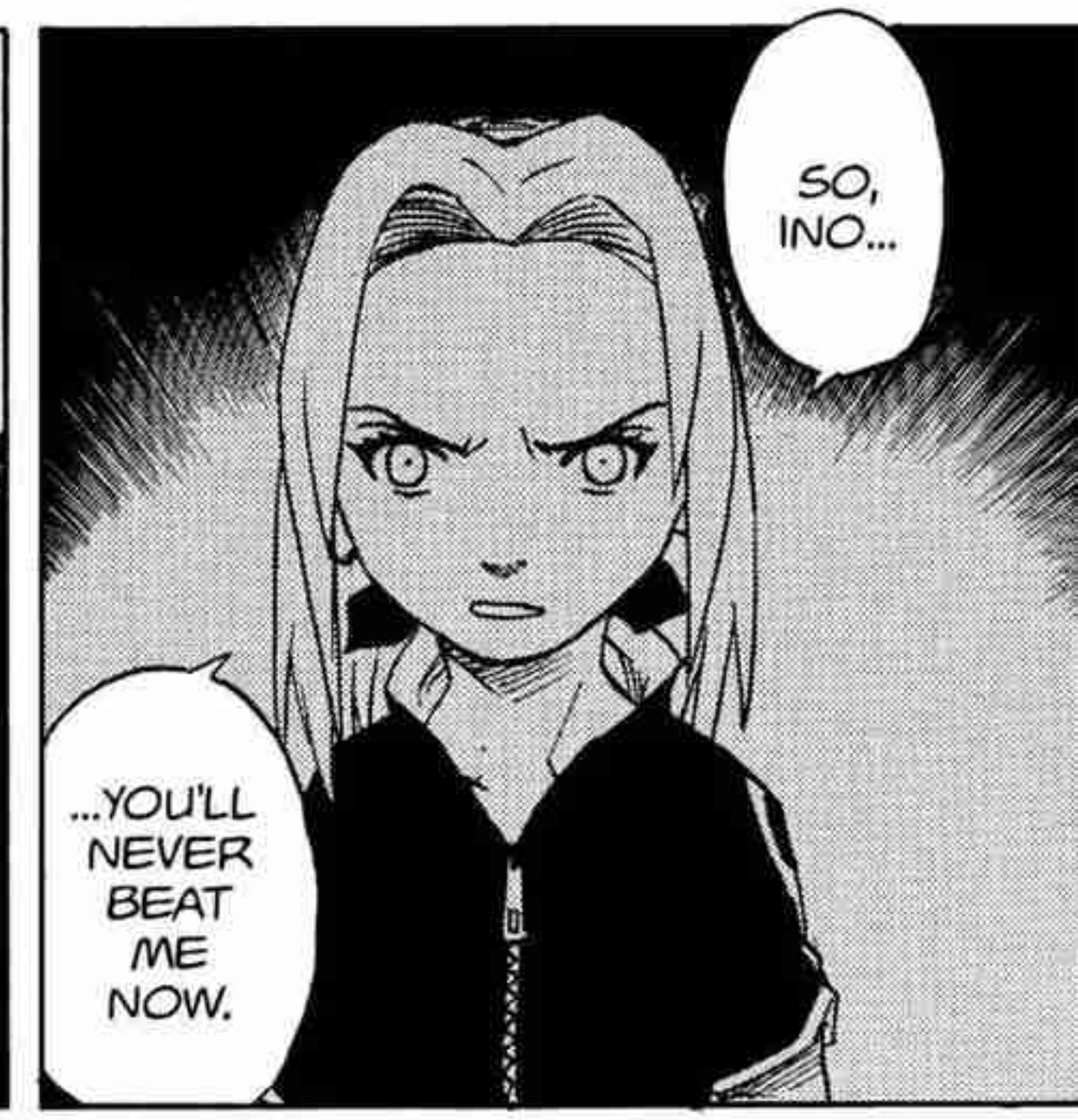

I GUESS THAT MAKES US RIVALS...

WHAT?!


THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT? WELL, TOP THIS!
SASUKE AND I ARE ON THE SAME TEAM!
WHAT'S IT TO YOU, SAKURA?!
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
FWMP

I NOTICE YOUR HAIR IS LOT LONGER...
...INO.

THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME, SAKURA...
...I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SHOW ME UP!!


SO, INO...
...YOU'LL NEVER BEAT ME NOW.

POW
POW

DRIP

SMAK
THAM

UNHH

YOU LITTLE WITCH!!
FWUT

THEY NEED ME... TO PROTECT THEM!...
HUF
HUF
SKF

TH-THIS IS NOT GOOD...!
INO! INO... COME ON!

!!
!!

HUNH?

!!

TO BE CONTINUED IN NARUTO VOL. 7!